

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



FORTY-FOURTH REGULAR SESSION
Asunción, Paraguay
June 3-5, 2014

PROCEEDINGS

VOLUME I

AG/DEC. 74 (XLIV-O/14) - AG/DEC. 79 (XLIV-O/14)
AG/RES. 2814 (XLIV-O/14) - AG/RES. 2871 (XLIV-O/14)

CERTIFIED TEXTS OF THE DECLARATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

GENERAL SECRETARIAT
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

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ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



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I hereby certify that this volume contains the official texts of the declarations and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States at its forty-fourth regular session, held in Asunción, Paraguay, from June 3 to 5, 2014.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized cursive letters, enclosed within a thin, horizontal oval line.

José Miguel Insulza
Secretary General
Organization of American States

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		<u>Page</u>
AG/DEC. 74 (XLIV-O/14)	Declaration of Asunción “Development with Social Inclusion”	1
AG/DEC. 75 (XLIV-O/14)	Pan American and Parapan American Games, Central American and Caribbean Games, and Peace.....	9
AG/DEC. 76 (XLIV-O/14)	Declaration on Violence against and Exploitation of Children.....	11
AG/DEC. 77 (XLIV-O/14)	Declaration on the Question of the Malvinas Islands	15
AG/DEC. 78 (XLIV-O/14)	Declaration of Greetings to the Special Summit of the G77 + China	17
AG/DEC. 79 (XLIV-O/14)	Rights of the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas	19
AG/RES. 2814 (XLIV-O/14)	Strategic Vision of the Organization of American States	21
AG/RES. 2815 (XLIV-O/14)	Progress toward Accountability, Efficiency and Effectiveness, and Results in the OAS General Secretariat.....	23
AG/RES. 2816 (XLIV-O/14)	Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development	29
AG/RES. 2817 (XLIV-O/14)	Strengthening the Inter-American Council for Integral Development: Policy Dialogue and Partnership for Development Cooperation	43
AG/RES. 2818 (XLIV-O/14)	Climate Change in the Context of Sustainable Development in the Hemisphere.....	61
AG/RES. 2819 (XLIV-O/14)	Sustainable and Equitable Cities and Communities in the Americas	65
AG/RES. 2820 (XLIV-O/14)	International Mother Earth Day	67
AG/RES. 2821 (XLIV-O/14)	Toward Autonomy for and Strengthening of Official Public Defenders as a Guarantee of Access to Justice	69
AG/RES. 2822 (XLIV-O/14)	Right to the Truth.....	73

AG/RES. 2823 (XLIV-O/14)	Adoption of the Follow-up Mechanism for Implementation of the Protocol of San Salvador	77
AG/RES. 2824 (XLIV-O/14)	Recognition of the International Decade for People of African Descent.....	81
AG/RES. 2825 (XLIV-O/14)	Draft Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons.....	85
AG/RES. 2826 (XLIV-O/14)	Prevention and Reduction of Statelessness and Protection of Stateless Persons in the Americas	89
AG/RES. 2827 (XLIV-O/14)	Coordination of Volunteers in the Hemisphere in Response to Disasters and the Fight against Hunger and Poverty – White Helmets Initiative.....	93
AG/RES. 2828 (XLIV-O/14)	Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Exploitation and Smuggling of and Trafficking in Boys, Girls, and Adolescents of Both Sexes.....	97
AG/RES. 2829 (XLIV-O/14)	Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	101
AG/RES. 2830 (XLIV-O/14)	Network for Consumer Safety and Health and Inter-American Rapid Product-Safety Warning System.....	105
AG/RES. 2831 (XLIV-O/14)	Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality and Strengthening of the Inter-American Commission of Women.....	115
AG/RES. 2832 (XLIV-O/14)	Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, “Convention of Belém Do Pará”	119
AG/RES. 2833 (XLIV-O/14)	Inclusive Dialogue for Effectively Dealing with Social Conflicts in Investments for Integral Development	123
AG/RES. 2834 (XLIV-O/14)	Toward Implementation of a Strategy on Youth for the Americas	125
AG/RES. 2835 (XLIV-O/14)	Promotion and Strengthening of Democracy: Follow-Up to the Inter-American Democratic Charter	129
AG/RES. 2836 (XLIV-O/14)	XXI Pan American Child Congress	135
AG/RES. 2837 (XLIV-O/14)	Free Trade and Investment in the Hemisphere.....	137

AG/RES. 2838 (XLIV-O/14)	Assistance to Member States: Effective Public Management Strengthening and Innovation Initiative in the Americas	139
AG/RES. 2839 (XLIV-O/14)	Protection of Asylum Seekers and Refugees in the Americas	141
AG/RES. 2840 (XLIV-O/14)	Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Business	145
AG/RES. 2841 (XLIV-O/14)	Preparation of the Plan of Action of the Social Charter of the Americas	149
AG/RES. 2842 (XLIV-O/14)	Access to Public Information and Protection of Personal Data	151
AG/RES. 2843 (XLIV-O/14)	Follow-Up to the Inter-American Program for Universal Civil Registry and the “Right to Identity”	155
AG/RES. 2844 (XLIV-O/14)	Meeting of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas	159
AG/RES. 2845 (XLIV-O/14)	Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty	161
AG/RES. 2846 (XLIV-O/14)	Support for and Follow-Up to the Summits of the Americas Process	167
AG/RES. 2847 (XLIV-O/14)	Recognition and Promotion of the Rights of People of African Descent in the Americas	173
AG/RES. 2848 (XLIV-O/14)	Follow-Up on the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and on the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption	177
AG/RES. 2849 (XLIV-O/14)	Annual Reports of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Inter-American Juridical Committee, and Justice Studies Center of the Americas	181
AG/RES. 2850 (XLIV-O/14)	Internally Displaced Persons	187
AG/RES. 2851 (XLIV-O/14)	Human Rights Defenders: Support for the Individuals, Groups, and Organizations of Civil Society Working to Promote and Protect Human Rights in the Americas	191
AG/RES. 2852 (XLIV-O/14)	Promotion of International Law	195

AG/RES. 2853 (XLIV-O/14)	Strengthening the Activities of the Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators	201
AG/RES. 2854 (XLIV-O/14)	Support for the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities and Its Technical Secretariat	203
AG/RES. 2855 (XLIV-O/14)	Convocation of a Meeting of Governmental Experts on Land Rights, Natural Resources, Development, and Consultation: Experiences and Challenges	207
AG/RES. 2856 (XLIV-O/14)	Support for the Peace Process in Colombia	209
AG/RES. 2857 (XLIV-O/14)	Process of Reflection on the Workings of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights with a View to Strengthening the Inter-American Human Rights System	211
AG/RES. 2858 (XLIV-O/14)	Fund for Peace: Peaceful Settlement of Territorial Disputes.....	213
AG/RES. 2859 (XLIV-O/14)	Telecommunications/Information and Communication Technologies for Development	217
AG/RES. 2860 (XLIV-O/14)	Financing of the 2015-2016 Program-Budget of the Organization.....	227
AG/RES. 2861 (XLIV-O/14)	Increasing and Strengthening the Participation of Civil Society and Social Actors in the Activities of the Organization of American States and in the Summits of the Americas Process	231
AG/RES. 2862 (XLIV-O/14)	The Americas: A Zone of Peace, Cooperation, and Peaceful Dispute Settlement	237
AG/RES. 2863 (XLIV-O/14)	Human Rights, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity And Expression	241
AG/RES. 2864 (XLIV-O/14)	Persons Who Have Disappeared and Assistance to Members of their Families	247
AG/RES. 2865 (XLIV-O/14)	Amendments to the Statute and Regulations of CITEL	253
AG/RES. 2866 (XLIV-O/14)	Advancing Hemispheric Security: A Multidimensional Approach	319

I. Activities of the Committee on Hemispheric Security	321
- Meetings of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA).....	321
- Support for implementation at the hemispheric level of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)	322
- Future of the mission and functions of the instruments and components of the inter-American defense system	323
- Confidence- and security-building in the Americas.....	323
- Declaration of San Salvador on Citizen Security in the Americas.....	324
- Support for the Central American Security Strategy.....	324
- Preventing violence and crime	324
- The Americas as an antipersonnel land mine-free zone	325
- Execution of the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime and strengthening of hemispheric cooperation.....	326
- Hemispheric efforts to combat trafficking in persons.....	327
- Follow-up to the Special Conference on Security	328
- Special security concerns of the small island states of the Caribbean.....	328
- Consolidation of the regime established in the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco).....	329
- Disarmament and nonproliferation in the Hemisphere.....	329
- Illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons in all their aspects	331
- Protecting Critical Infrastructure in the Event of Disasters	331
II. LEGAL INSTRUMENTS.....	331
- Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA).....	331

	- Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions (CITAAC).....	333
III.	Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Reports of the Organs, Agencies, and Entities of the Organization (Article 91.f of the Charter of the Organization of American States).....	334
	- Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD).....	334
	- Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE).....	336
	- Inter-American Defense Board (IADB)	336
IV.	Follow-Up and Reporting	337
AG/RES. 2867 (XLIV-O/14)	Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	341
AG/RES. 2868 (XLIV-O/14)	Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Search for New Approaches and Effective Solutions in the Development and Implementation of Policies for Addressing the World Drug Problem in the Americas	343
AG/RES. 2869 (XLIV-O/14)	Follow-Up on Implementation of the Declaration of Cochabamba on “Food Security with Sovereignty in the Americas”	347
AG/RES. 2870 (XLIV-O/14)	Vote of Appreciation to the People and Government of the Republic of Paraguay	351
AG/RES. 2871 (XLIV-O/14)	Place and Date of the Forty-Fifth Regular Session of the General Assembly	353

DECLARATION OF ASUNCIÓN “DEVELOPMENT WITH SOCIAL INCLUSION”

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), gathered in Asunción, Paraguay, at the forty-fourth regular session of the OAS General Assembly,

REAFFIRMING the provisions of the Charter of the OAS, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the Social Charter of the Americas, the Declaration on Security in the Americas, and other inter-American instruments on promotion, protection, and observance of human rights, in particular economic, social, and cultural rights;^{1/}

CONSIDERING that, while American states have taken measures to achieve the integral development of their inhabitants, buttress democracy, and promote and protect human rights, there still remain challenges in terms of poverty and extreme poverty; food security and nutrition; discrimination, equity, equality and social inclusion; inclusive and quality education; universal health coverage; decent, dignified and productive work; and citizen security;

RECOGNIZING that eradicating hunger and poverty, in particular extreme poverty, requires the promotion of public social, economic, and environmental policies that encourage, *inter alia*, productivity, employment, and sustainable and broad-based and inclusive development in our nations;

CONCERNED that, in spite of the efforts made by the States, inequity and social exclusion continue, in different measures, to adversely affect our Hemisphere, and tackling their causes and consequences is an imperative that should further unite the American states to improve conditions for economic and social development and promote fairer, equitable and inclusive societies, giving particular emphasis to the rights and participation of persons in vulnerable situations;

CONSIDERING that people’s quality of life and the full enjoyment of their rights and freedoms can be improved by minimizing the incidence and severity of territorial gaps with concrete integral-development actions in the areas of education, healthcare, and social inclusion, bearing in mind the well-being of future generations;

RECOGNIZING the important contributions that women make to sustainable development and economic growth, including their unpaid work in the home and providing care; and the need for women’s empowerment to eliminate gender inequality and achieve the full enjoyment of their rights;

RECOGNIZING ALSO the contributions of migrants and their families, as well as their collective and individual potential as agents of development in countries of origin, transit and destination;

1. The United States is committed to the promotion and protection of and respect for human rights, and reiterates that all human rights are universal, indivisible, and interdependent and interrelated. ...

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that universal access to quality and inclusive education, with special attention given to individuals and groups in vulnerable situations, strengthens the development of the individual, social inclusion, economic development, and democratic institutions;

MINDFUL that health is essential for a full and productive life and that public health is an investment that impacts on the quality of life of our societies, and taking into account the principles promoted by the Pan American Health Organization's Health Agenda for the Americas 2008-2017;

RECOGNIZING that social inclusion, equality of opportunity, equity, and social justice are critical to democracy and that the promotion, protection, and effective exercise of human rights, particularly economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as access to justice and dialogue among all sectors of the population, are essential for strengthening democracy;^{2/}

REAFFIRMING that the basis and purpose of citizen security is the protection of human beings and that the rule of law, full respect for human rights, the fight against impunity, and integral development strengthen the conditions of citizen security;

EMPHASIZING the important role that public-private partnerships, with the participation of civil society and other social actors, can play in advancing comprehensive development;

RECOGNIZING that financial inclusion contributes to greater social inclusion as well as to the reduction of income inequality and poverty;

RECOGNIZING ALSO that information and communication technologies (ICTs) used in accordance with the universal principles of human rights are effective instruments for the sustainable development of inclusive, knowledge-based societies, the creation of opportunities, the promotion of cooperation among the peoples of the Americas, and the exercise of human rights;

REAFFIRMING that family farming and small farmers are an important basis for sustainable food production aimed at achieving food and nutrition security, and recognizing the important contribution that family farming can play in eradicating poverty as part of the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

MINDFUL that climate change has adverse impacts in the Americas, causing deterioration in quality of life and the environment for present and future generations, and that member states face significant risks from the adverse impacts of climate change, particularly those that are vulnerable in accordance with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and require adaptation strategies to counteract such impacts;

CONVINCED of the importance of promoting public-policy, legislative and institutional frameworks for disaster-risk reduction in order to reduce the loss of human lives and social, economic, and environmental impacts that affect our societies;

CONSIDERING the importance of adopting effective measures that permit countries to overcome the transit challenges they face as landlocked developing countries and reaffirming the will to effectively implement the Almaty Program of Action, adopted by the United Nations General

2. *Idem.*

Assembly by resolution 58/201, as well as existing agreements in their transit and transportation systems;

RECALLING resolution 67/206 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, highlighting the importance of coordinated, balanced, and integrated actions to address the sustainable-development challenges facing small island developing states;

WELCOMING the designation of 2014 as International Year of Small Island Developing States and noting that countries with low-lying coastal areas face similar challenges to their sustainable development;

RECOGNIZING the challenges faced by small, vulnerable, highly indebted, and middle-income member states;

BEARING IN MIND resolution 68/222, "Development cooperation with middle-income countries," adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 20, 2013, and recognizing that the middle-income countries still face significant challenges in their efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

WELCOMING the celebration on August 15, 2014, of the 100th anniversary of the Panama Canal, an interoceanic passageway that contributes to the economic and sustainable development of the Hemisphere, whose expansion project will enable greater openness and facilitation of maritime trade in the region;

UNDERSCORING that inter-American cooperation for integral development is the common and joint responsibility of member states, within the framework of democratic principles, and that a goal of the OAS, through its Inter-American Council for Integral Development, is to promote cooperation among member states with a view to achieving their integral development and, in particular, to contribute to the elimination of poverty; and

MINDFUL of the need to strengthen the coordinated efforts of the OAS with member states and with the institutions of the inter-American system, especially where the goals associated with the promotion and strengthening of integral development are concerned,

DECLARE:

1. To commit their efforts to eradicating hunger and poverty, particularly extreme poverty; combating inequity, inequality, discrimination, and social exclusion; and increasing equitable access to health services, as well as to quality and inclusive education, as priority objectives that should inform the actions of the inter-American system.

2. To strengthen the capacity of the countries to withstand external shocks, so that the progress made in the region in terms of eliminating hunger and poverty, especially extreme poverty, is sustainable.

3. To recognize the work currently underway on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and to request that the General Secretariat incorporate, as appropriate, the results in its programs, projects, and activities.

4. To encourage inter-sectoral public policies on social protection and inclusion, with a view to strengthening respect for human rights and the adoption of comprehensive measures for the full and effective participation in society of all persons, in particular, those in vulnerable situations, and to preventing, combating, and eradicating all forms of discrimination and intolerance.

5. To encourage ALSO the formulation and implementation of comprehensive and inclusive economic and social policies intended to deepen economic development with equity, foster investment and entrepreneurship, and generate decent, dignified, and productive work in all sectors, so as to reduce income and social inequalities.

6. To strengthen efforts to ensure full equity and equality of access, opportunities, participation, and leadership of women in development, in accordance with international commitments adopted by states aimed at achieving full and equal participation for women in all spheres of society.

7. To underscore the need to develop and implement public policies, respectful of human rights, that favor the social inclusion of migrants, encourage exchanges of best practices among member states, and create the necessary conditions for recognizing, optimizing, and maximizing the benefits of migration for the development of the countries of the Americas.

8. To promote inclusive professional and technical training, as well as the development of mechanisms for skills certification in order to facilitate job market access and reinsertion; support personal and professional advancement, with an emphasis on innovation; and maximize productivity in the economy and institution building.

9. To develop and strengthen policies for improving availability, access and quality of health services, whose delivery is culturally acceptable, as well as promotion of healthy lifestyles for the population, particularly for persons and groups in vulnerable situations, promoting universal health coverage, with emphasis on preventive care programs.

10. To continue to promote and uphold democratic principles, human rights, and access to justice for all while fostering social dialogue, as essential elements for social, economic, and cultural development, bearing in mind that democracy and integral development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

11. To strengthen a multidimensional approach in their citizen security policies that contributes to integral development and social justice, promotes community participation, and contributes to reducing and preventing violence and crime in all its forms, bearing in mind that development and security are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

12. To stimulate and strengthen public-private partnerships, with the participation of other stakeholders, in order to eliminate poverty—particularly extreme poverty—and advance

comprehensive development in the Americas, taking into consideration the role of the state and corporate social responsibility.

13. To strengthen public policies for the planning, creation, and modernization of physical infrastructure for transportation, energy, and connectivity, given the strategic role that they play in driving economies, generating employment, and promoting sustainable development.

14. To reiterate the need to adopt public policies for fair, equitable, and non-discriminatory access to basic public services, including safe drinking water and basic sanitation, as necessary measures to achieve integral development. Likewise, to promote and foster comprehensive public policies aimed at meeting housing needs among the poorest and most vulnerable segments of the population.

15. To encourage financial inclusion policies that enhance access to and the use of affordable and quality financial services and strengthen the financial capability of excluded or underserved households, micro- and small businesses, cooperatives and other units of production as well as the promotion of financial education programs.

16. To reaffirm that the expansion of access, appropriation and use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) under the principles of equity, universality and affordability, in a framework of global cooperation and respect for human rights, contributes to poverty reduction, sustainable development, and social inclusion that facilitates access to information, education and freedom of expression. In this context, to underscore the role of the bodies of the inter-American system in the promotion and adoption of innovative and reliable ICTs in the Americas, reducing the digital divide.

17. To promote inter-sectoral policies and strategies to encourage sustainable development and achieve food and nutrition security by strengthening family and smallholder farming, which should take into account production and supply of local products, including highly nutritional products.

18. To continue and to strengthen their efforts toward implementing the commitments in the area of sustainable development and climate change in order to counter the adverse effects of climate change; build the capacity of the states, populations, and vulnerable ecosystems to adapt to climate change; and increase efforts to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, in accordance with the principles, objectives, and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

19. To strengthen public policies on comprehensive disaster risk management that promote the participation of all levels of government and society, and which contribute to the improvement of quality of life of individuals and to sustainable development.

20. To give necessary support to the condition of landlocked developing country through the implementation of effective measures to overcome vulnerabilities and problems arising from that situation, allowing freedom of transit through the territory of transit states by all means of transport in accordance with the applicable rules under international law, international conventions and bilateral

agreements, and to request the General Secretariat to prepare a report that would allow support for progress in that respect.

21. To encourage all member states, the inter-American system, and all other stakeholders to take advantage of the International Year of Small Island Developing States to promote actions at all levels, including through international, regional, and subregional cooperation, as appropriate, aimed at the achievement of sustainable development of small island developing states, including countries with low-lying coastal areas.

22. To promote and strengthen effective cooperation and partnership-building strategies among the states, as well as with relevant international institutions, with the aim of promoting sustainable development with social inclusion in a manner consistent with national priorities and interests.

23. To promote cooperation among member states with a view to achieving their integral development and to contributing to the elimination of poverty, particularly extreme poverty. To that end, to instruct the OAS General Secretariat to support the coordination of cooperation efforts through different existing mechanisms and instruments, to generate synergies with institutions of the inter-American system, and to take necessary steps to establish greater coordination, as appropriate, among the OAS, Inter-American Development Bank, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and Pan American Health Organization.

FOOTNOTE

1. ... The United States believes that civil and political rights are as important as economic, social and cultural rights to achieving development with social inclusion; all individuals rely on civil and political rights so that they can participate actively in the development of policies and programs to address poverty and discrimination and to provide for education, health care, food security and decent work. In particular, the exercise of civil and political rights plays the central role in strengthening democracy. Further, we understand the resolution's reaffirmation of prior documents to apply to those who affirmed them initially.

AG/DEC. 75 (XLIV-O/14)

PAN AMERICAN AND PARAPAN AMERICAN GAMES, CENTRAL AMERICAN
AND CARIBBEAN GAMES, AND PEACE

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), gathered in Asunción, Paraguay, at the forty-fourth regular session of the OAS General Assembly,

RECOGNIZING the values well established by the Pan American and Parapan American Games, with a focus on peace and community cohesion within and among nations during the Games that encourage a peaceful environment and ensure the safe passage and participation of athletes and other relevant persons at the Games, and thereby mobilize the youth of the world to the cause of peace;

HIGHLIGHTING the value of sport in promoting healthy living, education, diversity, inclusion, development, peace and global citizenship, all of which are basic objectives of the work of the Organization of the American States (OAS);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that sport has the potential to foster peace and development, build strong and resilient societies, and contribute to an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding;

REAFFIRMING that sport is a tool for education that can encourage cooperation, solidarity, social inclusion, and health at the local, national and international levels, promoting equality for all individuals;

RECOGNIZING the need to strengthen and coordinate efforts, including multi-stakeholder partnerships at all levels to maximize the potential of sport for contributing to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals and national peacebuilding priorities;

ACKNOWLEDGING that games that bring together athletes from many countries for a common competitive cause can mobilize leaders, athletes, and young people of the world behind the cause of sport and peace, and allow the nations of the world, even in times of conflict and discord, to meet together in friendly athletic competition;

RECOGNIZING the policies and practices that promote the potential of sport as a tool for social and humanitarian reconciliation, and which advocate in favor of a culture of peace, and support the integral development of communities;

RECOGNIZING ALSO that the goals of multinational competitions include a commitment to build a peaceful and better world by educating the youth of the world through sport, practiced without discrimination of any kind and based on mutual understanding, friendship, solidarity and fair play;

RECALLING relevant articles of international conventions on leisure, recreation, sport and play, including Article 30 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which recognizes the right of persons with disabilities to take part, on an equal basis with others, in cultural life, recreation, leisure, and sport; and

UNDERLINING the importance of guaranteeing inclusion for persons with disabilities in all aspects of development, including access to sport, and in support of the principle of “sports for all,”

We declare the Veracruz 2014 Central American and Caribbean Games to constitute a space of harmony and friendship among the participating countries and to include programming that encourages the values of equity, inclusion, and peace.

We declare the Toronto 2015 Pan American and Parapan American Games to unfold under the banner of peace and to include programming that promotes, in both the host and participating countries, the aspirations of this resolution.

We laud the holding of the Santiago 2014 Para South American Games, which proceeded in an atmosphere of peace among the sportsmen and sportswomen from the different countries taking part.

We also commend the selection of Lima as host of the 2019 Pan American and Parapan American Games and the intention of the Government of Peru to encourage the practice of sport as a means to foster development and social inclusion as well as to strengthen the education and health of children and youth in our Hemisphere.

We encourage the use of sport as a vehicle to foster development and strengthen education for children and young persons; prevent disease and promote health, including prevention of drug abuse; empower girls and women; foster the inclusion and bring visibility to the potential of persons with disabilities by promoting their engagement in development; and facilitate social inclusion, conflict prevention, and peacebuilding;

We request the OAS Secretariat to carry out the necessary actions, with the support of its member states, to promote this declaration.

AG/DEC. 76 (XLIV-O/14)

DECLARATION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST AND EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS) gathered in Asunción, Paraguay, at the forty-fourth regular session of the OAS General Assembly,

RECOGNIZING that violence against and exploitation of children occur everywhere and in every form in all countries and societies and among all social groups, and make no distinction as to class, culture, race, religion, gender, or nationality, particularly in vulnerable groups;

RECOGNIZING ALSO the significant positive impact of child welfare assistance programs on education, school retention, malnutrition reduction, and social inclusion;

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that such violence takes place in all environments in which children live, grow, develop, and interact, *inter alia*, in families, at home, in schools, and in communities and the media, within social welfare systems, and in juvenile justice systems;

CONCERNED at the higher rates of violent deaths that occur among adolescents, especially adolescent boys in traditionally excluded and/or vulnerable groups;

CONCERNED ALSO about the high incidence of sexual violence against children, particularly girls, through abuse, exploitation or trafficking; as well as bullying in schools; and corporal punishment as a form of discipline in schools, institutions, and homes;

CONSIDERING that the human rights of children are recognized in the main human rights instruments of both the inter-American system and the United Nations, as established in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;

CONSIDERING ALSO that the OAS, particularly through the Inter-American Children's Institute, as well as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, has emphasized the importance of effectively promoting and protecting the rights of children in the Americas;

CONSIDERING FURTHER that the countries of the Americas actively participated in the process of preparation of the United Nations Secretary-General "World Report on Violence against Children" and remain committed to promoting initiatives that help to end violence against children;

MINDFUL that countries with high rates of child labor tend to have low rates of school attendance; that children who study in a violent environment perform poorly academically; that children who are victims of abuse and exploitation are harmed emotionally, mentally, and physically, impairing their ability to learn and socialize;

CONSIDERING that preventing and responding to violence and exploitation is essential to ensuring children's rights to survival, development, and well-being, and that violence against children not only threatens their personal integrity, but endangers their lives and adversely affects the realization of other rights, such as the rights to development, education, and health, as well as to recreation;^{1/}

MINDFUL that it is essential to strengthen national systems for promotion and protection of children's rights, particularly at the local level, through programs on prevention of and response to violence against children, as well as through families, schools, and the community;

MINDFUL ALSO of the progress that member states have made in preventing and responding to violence against children, as well as the significant contributions of the inter-American human rights system, in particular of the Office of the Rapporteur on the Rights of the Child of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; and

MINDFUL FURTHER that, in order to continue promoting the positive impacts achieved through the Millennium Development Goals, any new post-2015 global development agenda must deal with violence against and exploitation of children,

DECLARE:

1. That responses to violence against children should be gender-sensitive and of a holistic nature, encompassing prevention of violence against children, early detection of cases of violence against children, care and rehabilitation for victims, protective action and measures to ensure children's safety; enhancing strategies to ensure that violence is prevented, and promoting the creation of community-based child protection networks to reduce secondary victimization; restitution and reparation; and prosecution and punishment of perpetrators of violence against children.

2. That it is vital that the Post-2015 Development Agenda address the issue of violence and exploitation perpetrated against children.^{2/}

3. That implementation and follow-up of public policies aimed at eradicating violence, begging, and the worst forms of child labor must be strengthened, taking into account gender, multiculturalism, and disability.

4. That it is essential that states not only continue deepening changes and improvements made for children in the areas of child survival, education, gender equality, and HIV/AIDS, but also address with the same commitment and vigor the issue of violence against and exploitation of children, unaccompanied or separated migrant children, and those living on the streets or caught up in organized crime.

1. The United States recognizes the role governments play in ensuring a child's survival and development. While this concept is contained in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ...

2. Ecuador is of the view that effectively tackling the issue of violence against and exploitation of children as part of the Post-2015 Development Agenda calls for a diagnosis of the reality ...

5. That they urge governments to ensure that the issue of violence and exploitation perpetrated against children has clear and measurable sex-disaggregated targets and indicators to guarantee that children are free from violence and exploitation.

6. That sex-disaggregated indicators could include statistics on the number of children involved in the worst forms of child labor; on the number of children subjected to any form of sexual violence in schools; on the number of children subjected to the most serious forms of violence in the home or community, defined as those that are banned by national laws; on the number of children who lack adequate care or are at risk of inadequate care; and on the number of children removed or rescued from illegal armed groups involved in armed conflict.

7. That they encourage governments, where appropriate, to harmonize their laws with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and to design and consider introducing protocols on prevention, protection, and assistance against violence against children, in all its forms.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... the United States is not party to that treaty, nor are survival and development framed as rights in that instrument. It is also not the place of the OAS to recommend drafting protocols to UN Conventions.
2. ... in the countries with respect to the issues of violence against and sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, including development of a registration system for those victims.

AG/DEC. 77 (XLIV-O/14)

DECLARATION ON THE QUESTION OF THE MALVINAS ISLANDS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING its repeated statements that the question of the Malvinas Islands is a matter of enduring hemispheric concern;

RECALLING its resolution AG/RES. 928 (XVIII-O/88), adopted by consensus on November 19, 1988, in which it requested the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to resume negotiations in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute;

BEARING IN MIND that in its resolution AG/RES. 1049 (XX-O/90) it expressed satisfaction over the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries;

RECOGNIZING that the accreditation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, under resolution CP/RES. 665 (1041/95), as a permanent observer of the OAS reflects principles and values shared by that country and OAS member states, which facilitate greater mutual understanding;

NOTING with satisfaction that the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland maintain important political, cultural, and trade ties, share common values, and are also engaged in close cooperation both bilaterally and in international forums;

BEARING IN MIND that, despite those ties and shared values, it has not yet been possible to resume the negotiations between the two countries with a view to solving the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia, and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas in the framework of resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25 of the United Nations General Assembly, the decisions adopted by the same body on the same question in the Special Committee on Decolonization, and the reiterated resolutions and declarations adopted at the OAS General Assembly; and

HAVING HEARD the presentation by the head of the delegation of the Argentine Republic,

WELCOMES the reaffirmation of the will of the Argentine Government to continue exploring all possible avenues towards a peaceful settlement of the dispute and its constructive approach towards the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands.

REAFFIRMS the need for the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to resume, as soon as possible, negotiations on the sovereignty dispute, in order to find a peaceful solution to this protracted controversy.

DECIDES to continue to examine the question of the Malvinas Islands at its subsequent sessions until a definitive settlement has been reached thereon.

AG/DEC. 78 (XLIV-O/14)

DECLARATION OF GREETINGS TO THE SPECIAL SUMMIT OF THE G77 + CHINA

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2014)

THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS) gathered in Asunción, Paraguay, for the forty-fourth regular session of the OAS General Assembly,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that in June 2014, the United Nations Group of 77 and China is commemorating its 50th anniversary and that a member state of our Organization, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, is Chair of that Group,

DECLARE:

Their satisfaction with the holding of the Special Summit of the Group of 77 and China on June 14 and 15, 2014, in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, and congratulate said Group on the commemoration of its 50th anniversary.

AG/DEC. 79 (XLIV-O/14)

RIGHTS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2014)

THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS) gathered in Asunción, Paraguay, at the forty-fourth regular session of the OAS General Assembly;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the work accomplished by the Working Group to Prepare a Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

UNDERSCORING the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by all the OAS member states; and

UNDERLINING the major presence of indigenous peoples in the Americas and the commitments undertaken by the Heads of State and Government at the various Summits of the Americas,

DECLARE:

1. That they reaffirm that progress in promoting and effectively protecting the rights of the indigenous peoples of the Americas is a priority for the Organization.
2. That they request the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat to take such actions as are necessary to promote this declaration.

AG/RES. 2814 (XLIV-O/14)

STRATEGIC VISION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING that the Organization of American States (OAS) is an essential part of the inter-American and international system and that it was established to contribute, *inter alia*, to the goals of peace, social justice, and global stability;

CONSIDERING ALSO that it is necessary periodically to update the strategies adopted for implementing the principles and purposes of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS);

RECOGNIZING that today's multilateralism calls for an OAS that is closer to peoples, in which dialogue, cooperation, and solutions to problems help to harmonize member states' global and country agendas and to take on the challenge of modernizing it, in order to better meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, pooling its efforts with those of other national, subregional, and international players;

RECALLING the presentation by the Secretary General to the Permanent Council of the document "A Strategic Vision of the OAS" (CP/doc.4673/11) in February 2012, and of a revised version thereof (CP/doc.4673/11 rev. 1) in April 2013;

BEARING IN MIND that, through resolution AG/RES. 2774 (XLIII-O/13), the General Assembly instructed the Permanent Council to conduct a policy analysis on the 2014 program-budget and to establish priorities and a course of action vis-à-vis future mandates;

RECOGNIZING that, in response to that mandate, the Permanent Council convened a meeting on September 10, 2013, at which it decided to establish the Working Group of the Permanent Council on the Strategic Vision of the OAS, which was officially installed on September 20, 2013;

NOTING that the Working Group of the Permanent Council on the Strategic Vision of the OAS considered the following criteria in addressing the Strategic Vision:

- a. The Organization supports cohesion among the member states, while observing the principle of unity in diversity;
- b. The OAS will have a clear and feasible strategic agenda that will boost its importance and, at the same time, foster dialogue and cooperation among the member states;
- c. The hemispheric agenda needs to be shaped by inclusive development and cooperation models that trigger synergies and partnerships that enable the

Organization to interact vigorously and efficiently with other national, regional, subregional, and international players; and

CONSIDERING that, being committed to strengthening the inter-American system, the member states have decided to update and modernize the OAS through the Strategic Vision, so that it inspires all its organs and helps to marshal and align all available resources, in order to carry out its mission for the benefit of the integral development of peoples with equity and social inclusion,

RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the following Vision Statement of the Organization, in connection with the forging of the Strategic Vision of the Organization of American States (OAS):

“The Organization of American States is the hemispheric political forum inclusive of all the countries of the Americas, committed to the strengthening of democracy, the promotion and protection of human rights, the advancement of integral development and the fostering of multidimensional security, all equal and interdependent, with justice and social inclusion, for the benefit of the peoples of the Americas.”

2. To take note of the report of the Chair of the Working Group of the Permanent Council on the Strategic Vision of the OAS and acknowledge the progress made as a result of the consultations conducted with the member states.

3. To instruct the Permanent Council, through the Working Group on the Strategic Vision of the OAS, to continue its discussions and complete the process of forging the Strategic Vision based on the current suggestions by member states and any input that may be forthcoming from them, taking into account the draft guidelines and strategic objectives proposed in Appendixes A and B of the report of the Chair of the Working Group.

4. To instruct the Permanent Council to present to the General Assembly, for consideration at a special session to be held prior to September 15, 2014, proposed guidelines and strategic objectives to support the Strategic Vision, so that they can be reflected in the Organization's 2015-2016 program-budget.

5. To instruct the Permanent Council to prepare, with the support of the General Secretariat, a list of proposed operational targets and work plans in line with the Strategic Vision and Objectives, to be included in the Organization's 2015-2016 program-budget.

6. To instruct the Permanent Council to conclude the mandate prioritization process, including the mandates adopted at this regular session of the General Assembly, on the basis of the Strategic Vision and its agreed-upon objectives.

7. To request the Secretary General to present a management modernization plan in line with the Strategic Vision to be adopted at the special session of the General Assembly on the 2015-2016 program-budget.

AG/RES. 2815 (XLIV-O/14)

PROGRESS TOWARD ACCOUNTABILITY, EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS,
AND RESULTS IN THE OAS GENERAL SECRETARIAT

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING that the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), through resolutions AG/RES. 2353 (XXXVII-O/07), AG/RES. 2437 (XXXVIII-O/08), AG/RES. 1 (XXXVI-E/08), AG/RES. 1 (XXXVIII-E/09), AG/RES. 1 (XL-E/10), AG/RES. 1 (XLII-E/11) rev. 1, AG/RES. 1 (XLIII-E/12), AG/RES. 2774 (XLIII-O/13), and AG/RES. 1 (XLV-E/13), has requested the General Secretariat to pursue efforts, for the purpose of improving the transparency and efficiency of the General Secretariat's operations, to establish appropriate planning, control, and evaluation systems that will enable the member states to follow up on budget programming and fiscal supervision;

RECOGNIZING the progress made with the exercise to evaluate and establish priorities for the Organization's mandates and the efforts of the Working Group of the Permanent Council on the Strategic Vision of the OAS;

REAFFIRMING that the General Assembly, as the supreme organ of the OAS, is responsible for determining the mandates of the Organization and for undertaking a regular review thereof under the advice of the Permanent Council;

RECOGNIZING the progress made and the pending challenges in implementing results-based budgeting and the ongoing work on the Strategic Plan for Management Modernization;

STRESSING the need to continue efforts in aligning the program-budget of the OAS with the assigned mandates;

EMPHASIZING the importance of upholding the highest standards of transparency and quality of information provided by the General Secretariat;

TAKING NOTE of the document "International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS)" (CP/CAAP-3288/14);

RECALLING the difficult financial situation facing the Organization and the terms of resolution AG/RES. 2439 (XXXIX-O/09), "Optimizing Resources: Use of Videoconference and Other Communication Technologies," and that communication technologies offer the possibility of achieving increased efficiency, transparency, and lower costs, which will lead to better use of the Organization's time and economic resources; and

BEARING IN MIND that the Permanent Council adopted the “Action Plan for the Optimization of the Use of Information Technology” (CP/CAAP-3277/13), which will be monitored through quarterly resource management and performance reports;

CONSIDERING that the adoption of a biennial program-budget will permit long-range planning of the Organization’s programs and, at the same time, facilitate forecasting, the apportionment of expenditures, and a results-based approach; and

TAKING NOTE of the presentation of the documents “Strengthening the OAS through Management Modernization” (GT/VEOE-32/13 corr. 1) and “The Administrative Pillar of the OAS” (GT/VEOE-24/13) to the Working Group of the Permanent Council on the Strategic Vision of the OAS,

RESOLVES:

1. Mandate prioritization

- a. To instruct the Permanent Council, through the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP), to establish a methodology for prioritizing OAS mandates, taking into account the recommendations contained in the reports presented by the various committees and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) on mandate classification.
- b. To instruct the Permanent Council jointly with the CIDI to implement the methodology for prioritizing OAS mandates that the CAAP will devise for that purpose.

2. Human resource policies:

To instruct the Permanent Council to continue considering the working documents CAAP/GT/RVPP-182/13 rev. 9, CAAP/GT/RVPP-218/13 and its respective addendums 1 and 2, and CAAP/GT/RVPP-219/13 in consultation with all interested parties and authorize it to approve the necessary amendments to Chapter III (Personnel) of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the OAS, at referendum of the next special session of the General Assembly on the program-budget, to be held no later than October 29, 2014.

3. Columbus Memorial Library

To request the General Secretariat to prepare options for leveraging existing internal and external resources through strategic alliances with other libraries and academic institutions and for applying modern information management principles to facilitate and expand access, and present a proposal to the Permanent Council through CAAP no later than February 28, 2015.

4. International Public Sector Accounting Standards

- a. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue efforts toward adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), as recommended by the Board of External Auditors;
- b. To instruct the Permanent Council to consider, through the CAAP, the project Implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) within the Organization of American States, to be presented by the General Secretariat at the first meeting of the CAAP following the forty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly; and
- c. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue to report in the quarterly resource management and performance reports on progress in this endeavor.

5. Budgetary review process

- a. To instruct the General Secretariat, in direct collaboration with the different secretariats of the Organization, to adopt a rigorous approach to developing, clearly presenting, executing, and evaluating the program-budget according to Chapters IV to VIII of the General Standards. The proposed program-budget shall include proposals' rationale as well as explanations of variances from the previous year and of human and financial resources requirements in line with expected results.
- b. To request that the General Secretariat continue to include in its proposed program-budget specific budget lines for expenditures under the appropriations assigned to the Department of Conferences and Meetings Management (DCMM) by the respective committees, subcommittees, and working groups within the Permanent Council and CIDI. Furthermore, the General Secretariat shall report quarterly to the Permanent Council on the use of the resources of the DCMM by those bodies, and actively encourage the practice of informal consultations between the General Secretariat and member states, as well as among member states, as a means of reducing the costs related to conferences and meetings.
- c. To request that the General Secretariat continue holding on a regular basis informal technical meetings with the delegations on the entire budgetary process and topics under review in preparation for formal discussions in order to promote a culture of trust and transparency.
- d. The Working Group to Conduct the Technical Review of the Program-Budget shall receive guidance and technical support from the General Secretariat in order to execute its mandates, which include:
 - i. Reviewing the budgetary implications of the Organization's current mandates and submitting to the Permanent Council through the

CAAP its technical recommendations for consideration in the preparation of the program-budget for the following budgetary period;

- ii. Reviewing the implementation of the mandates and results included in the program-budget approved at the preceding General Assembly session;
 - iii. Reviewing and submitting to the Permanent Council through CAAP comments on the quarterly resource management reports and examining the expenditures and outcomes against budget appropriation; and
 - iv. Addressing such other requests as the CAAP may make.
- e. To request the Permanent Council, with the assistance of the CAAP, to review and amend the General Standards, ad referendum of the General Assembly, in order to bring them into line with the demands of a biennial program-budget and the corresponding transition period. To that end:
- i. The overall budget level for the second year will be considered a tentative planning figure; and
 - ii. It is understood that member states' financial commitments to the Regular Fund are made on an annual basis.

6. Management modernization

- a. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue with the Organization's administrative reform process based on the following principles:
 - planning and results;
 - effectiveness and efficiency; and
 - accountability and transparency.
- b. To instruct the General Secretariat to present to the Permanent Council, no later than September 30, 2014, the Strategic Plan for Management Modernization for consideration and approval at the next special session of the General Assembly on the program-budget, to be held no later than October 29, 2014.
- c. To that end:
 - i. Planning and results
 - (a) To instruct the Permanent Council to present to the General Assembly, for consideration in a special session prior to September 15, 2014, proposed guidelines and strategic

objectives to support the Strategic Vision, so that they can be reflected in the Organization's 2015 – 2016 program-budget.

- (b) To instruct the Permanent Council to prepare, with the support of the General Secretariat, a list of proposed operational targets and work plans in line with the Strategic Vision and the strategic objectives to be included in the Organization's 2015 – 2016 program-budget.

ii. Effectiveness and efficiency

- (a) To request the General Secretariat to report, within 30 days following the conclusion of regular sessions of the General Assembly, on the cost of the mandates contained in the approved resolutions and on their impact on the program-budget.
- (b) Within the Strategic Plan for Management Modernization, the General Secretariat shall submit for the Permanent Council's consideration a proposal to simplify operations, create efficiencies, and avoid waste and duplicated efforts.
- (c) To request the General Secretariat to realign the Organization's resources and organizational structure with the mandates.

iii. Accountability and transparency

- (a) The General Secretariat shall continue to publish the following updated information on the Organization's website, in accordance with the Organization's legal structure:
 - (1) Organizational structure of each organizational unit;
 - (2) Goals and objectives of the organizational units in accordance with their operational plans;
 - (3) The results of evaluations, monitoring, and audits of programs and operations;
 - (4) Staffing per organizational unit, also including the salary scale and other benefits, as well as vacant positions; and
 - (5) Results-based contracts awarded for both consultants and goods and services, pursuant to applicable regulations.

- (b) Prior to September 30, 2014, the General Secretariat shall add the functions of each organizational unit to the information on the website in accordance with paragraph 5.b.iii.(c)(1).
- (c) To instruct the Permanent Council, through the CAAP, to monitor implementation of the Action Plan for the Optimization of the Use of Information Technology through quarterly resource management and performance reports.
- (d) To instruct the Permanent Council through the CAAP to consider amending Article 121 of the General Standards, in order to allow the Inspector General to make internal audit reports publicly available on the Organization's website. Such amendments will take into account the necessary measures to protect sensitive information in those audit reports that may, for example, endanger the safety and security of an individual or violate privacy rights, and to propose the adoption of these amendments at the next special session of the General Assembly on the program-budget, to be held no later than October 29, 2014.

7. Cycle of the Chair of the CAAP

To instruct the Permanent Council to make the necessary amendments to its rules of procedure to be able to change the cycle of the Chair of the CAAP to align it with the Organization's fiscal and budget year, that is, from January to December, and to consider a transitional period.

AG/RES. 2816 (XLIV-O/14)

ADVANCING HEMISPHERIC INITIATIVES ON INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

REAFFIRMING:

That the Charter of the Organization of American States proclaims the essential purposes of the Organization, which include “to promote, by cooperative action, their economic, social, and cultural development” and “to eradicate extreme poverty, which constitutes an obstacle to the full democratic development of the peoples of the hemisphere”;

That the Inter-American Democratic Charter and the Social Charter Americas recognize that development with equity strengthens and consolidates democracy, since the two are interdependent and mutually reinforcing;

That the Inter-American Democratic Charter states that “[d]emocracy is essential for the social, political, and economic development of the peoples of the Americas,” and that “[p]overty, illiteracy, and low levels of human development are factors that adversely affect the consolidation of democracy”; and

That the Social Charter of the Americas underscores “the determination and commitment of member states to urgently combat the serious problems of poverty, social exclusion, and inequity that affect, in varying degrees, the countries of the Hemisphere; to confront their causes and consequences; and to create more favorable conditions for economic and social development with equity to promote more just societies”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the process underway to prepare the Plan of Action of the Social Charter of the Americas;

RECALLING the Summit of the Americas^{1/} process and the mandates on integral development agreed upon by the Heads of State and Government;

RECALLING ALSO that the Statutes of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) provide that the purpose of CIDI is “to promote partnership for development among the member states of the OAS for the furtherance of their integral development and, in particular, to help eliminate poverty” and that “[i]t achieves its objectives through the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Integral Development”;

HAVING SEEN the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development 2006-2009^{2/}, whose term was extended until December 31, 2014, by resolution AG/RES. 2778 (XLIII-O/13);

-
1. The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reiterates its reservations to the FTAA, as formulated in the declarations and plans of action of the Summits of the Americas...

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the declarations and plans of action of the meetings of ministers and high-level authorities in the framework of CIDI in the areas of sustainable development, social development, culture, education, science and technology, labor, and tourism, as well as the meetings of high-level authorities responsible for cooperation;

RECALLING General Assembly resolutions AG/RES. 2779 (XLIII-O/13) “Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development” and AG/RES. 2778 (XLIII-O/13) “Strengthening the Inter-American Council for Integral Development: Policy Dialogue and Partnership for Development”; and

I. CURRENT MANDATES IN THE AREA OF INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT

REAFFIRMING the current and procedural mandates given to the General Secretariat by the member states from 2007 to 2013, as classified by the CIDI Ad Hoc Working Group to Review Integral Development Mandates and included in document CIDI/doc. 87/14 “Classification of Mandates in the Area of Integral Development 2007-2013,” as well as in the report of the above working group (CIDI/doc.83/14 rev. 1), which was forwarded and presented by CIDI to the Permanent Council,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the current and procedural mandates and their classification, including the inter-American plans and programs, as well as the documents arising from the ministerial meetings in the framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and, to that end, to acknowledge the “Report of the Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group of CIDI to Review Mandates on Integral Development” (CIDI/doc.83/14 rev. 1).

2. To request that the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), in the framework of the substantive policy dialogue and considering the current mandates, provide support to CIDI to review and update its long-term priorities, taking into account, *inter alia*, the guidelines from the Permanent Council on the mandate review and prioritization process, with a view to devising a comprehensive approach to development in the Hemisphere.

II. CIDI MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML)

HAVING SEEN the Declaration of Medellín 2013, “50 Years of Inter-American Dialogue for the Promotion of Social Justice and Decent Work: Progress and Challenges towards Sustainable Development” (CIDI/TRABAJO/DEC. 1/13), and the Plan of Action of Medellín 2013 (CIDI/TRABAJO/doc.22/13 rev. 1),

2. Idem.

RESOLVES:

3. To thank the Government of Colombia for its hospitality and contributions to the results of the XVIII Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML), held in Medellín, on November 11 and 12, 2013, and to endorse the Declaration of Medellín 2013, “50 Years of Inter-American Dialogue for the Promotion of Social Justice and Decent Work: Progress and Challenges towards Sustainable Development” (CIDI/TRABAJO/DEC. 1/13) and the Plan of Action of Medellín 2013 (CIDI/TRABAJO/doc.22/13 rev. 1), in which further hemispheric consensus was reached on linkage of labor, social, and economic policies; promotion of decent work, including productive employment as a way to achieve equality and development; social protection for the peoples of the Americas; protection of workers’ rights; sustainability of enterprises; and promotion of social dialogue.

4. To recognize the 50th anniversary of the IACML; congratulate the ministers of labor of the Americas, as well as the Trade Union Technical Advisory Council (COSATE) and the Business Technical Advisory Committee on Labor Matters (CEATAL), both of which are consultative bodies to the IACML, for 50 years of broad dialogue among governments, workers’ representatives, and employers’ representatives; and highlight the joint declaration of workers and employers agreed upon by consensus.

5. To reiterate its support for and commitment to the Inter-American Network for Labor Administration (RIAL) as the IACML mechanism for cooperation, recognizing that it has achieved significant results in institutional strengthening and deepening cooperation among ministries of labor in the region, and reiterate the importance of its financial sustainability, to which end the ministries of labor and other donors are invited to contribute to the RIAL Voluntary Contributions Fund.

6. To accept with gratitude the offer of the Government of Mexico to host the XIX Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor in the second half of 2015.

Inter-American Congress of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Tourism

HAVING SEEN the Declaration of San Pedro Sula on Geotourism in the Americas (CIDI/TUR-XXI/DEC.1/13) and the “Final Report of the Twenty-first Inter-American Congress of Ministers and High-level Authorities of Tourism” (CIDI/TUR-XXI/doc.9/13),

RESOLVES:

7. To thank the Government of Honduras for its hospitality and contributions to the results of the Twenty-first Inter-American Congress of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Tourism, held in San Pedro Sula, on September 5 and 6, 2013, and to endorse the Declaration of San Pedro Sula on Geotourism in the Americas (CIDI/TUR-XXI/DEC. 1/13), which considered the scope of geotourism and its impact on local communities, security within the framework of sustainable tourism, and sustainable destination management as key elements in the evolution of sustainable tourism development in the Americas; highlighted the projects financed with the Hemispheric Tourism Fund; and invited member states to make voluntary contributions to continue supporting the development and execution of projects to benefit communities that are in extreme poverty but have tourism potential.

8. To thank the Government of Barbados for its offer to host the Twenty-second Inter-American Congress of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Tourism in Bridgetown, on September 3 and 4, 2014, under the theme “Tourism Competitiveness: An Essential Component of Sustainability,” and to urge tourism ministers and high authorities to attend and promote the participation of civil society and other social actors.

Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities

HAVING SEEN the resolutions of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) and of CIDI related to the various meetings of ministers and high authorities of culture in the framework of CIDI, in particular AG/RES. 2742 (XLII-O/12), “Report of the Fifth Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Culture in the Framework of CIDI and on the Celebration of the Inter-American Year of Culture”; and the report of the fifth regular meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIDI/CIC/doc.8/13),

RESOLVES:

9. To thank the Government of Haiti for its offer to host the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities in the Framework of CIDI in Pétion-Ville on August 12 and 13, 2014, with the theme “Cultural Interdependence in the Context of Globalization” and to urge ministers and high authorities of culture to attend and promote the participation of civil society and other social actors.

Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Science and Technology

HAVING SEEN resolutions AG/RES. 2748 (XLII-O/12) and CIDI/RES. 270 (XVII-O/12), “Report of the Third Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Science and Technology in the Framework of CIDI”; the Plan of Action of Panama, “Translational Science, Technology, and Innovation: Knowledge for Competitiveness and Prosperity” (CIDI/REMCYT-III/doc.6/11 rev. 4); and resolution CIDI/RES. 288 (XXIV-O/13) “Convocation of the Eighth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology,”

RESOLVES:

10. To accept with gratitude the offer of the Government of Guatemala to host the Fourth Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Science and Technology in 2015.

11. To underscore the progress achieved during the eighth regular meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology (COMCyT), held at OAS headquarters on November 14 and 15, 2013, and the importance that COMCyT, through its working groups, continues supporting the implementation of the Plan of Action of Panama, “Translational Science, Technology, and Innovation: Knowledge for Competitiveness and Prosperity” (CIDI/REMCYT-III/doc.6/11 rev. 4).

Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities on Sustainable Development

HAVING SEEN resolutions AG/RES. 1440 (XXVI-O/96), “Sustainable Development”; AG/RES. 1514 (XXVII-O/97), “Coordination and Follow-Up of the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra and the Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Americas”; AG/RES. 2312 (XXXVII-O/07), “Report of the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development within the Framework of CIDI”; and AG/RES. 2644 (XLI-O/11), “Report of the Second Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development within the Framework of CIDI”;

CONSIDERING that resolution AG/RES. 1440 (XXVI-O/96) notes the importance of sustainable development as a conceptual framework in which the OAS should work, both as a forum for concerted action and for technical cooperation;

RECALLING the Declaration of Santo Domingo for the Sustainable Development of the Americas, adopted in the Dominican Republic in 2010, which extended the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS) through the 2010-2014 period; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the commitments assumed in resolution 66/288, “The future we want,” adopted by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and the present global process to define sustainable development goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda,

RESOLVES:

12. To extend the mandate of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS) through December 31, 2015.

13. To accept with pleasure the offer of the Government of the Republic of Honduras to host the Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, on October 22 and 23, 2015; to instruct the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to convene it and allocate the appropriate resources; and to urge the highest authorities on sustainable development of member states to participate.

14. To request CIDI to convene the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development (CIDS) at OAS headquarters on October 22 and 23, 2014, and allocate the appropriate resources to hold it, so that said Committee may begin the preparations for holding the Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development and initiate the review and update of the PIDS. Also, to instruct SEDI to provide the necessary support for this process as a whole.

Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP)

HAVING SEEN the Lima Action Plan 2012-2013 [(CIDI/CIP/RES.117 (VII-12))] and considering that the eighth regular meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP), held in Cartagena, Colombia, in September 2013, approved the Declaration of Cartagena, [(CIDI/CIP/DEC.1 (VIII-O/13))], and its Action Plan [(CIDI/CIP/PA.1/13(VIII-O/13))], and having seen also resolution AG/RES. 2744 (XLII-O/12) containing guidelines for improving the functioning of the Committee;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION that globally, ports are the principal links in the maritime transportation network and that it is necessary to increase the proportion of cargo transported in this fashion in the Americas, in order to promote ports development and, thus, generate greater employment opportunities for our populations; and

RECOGNIZING THAT the expansion of the Panama Canal will facilitate an increase in the capacity for larger and more frequent commercial cargo on ships of increasing size, ports in the Americas must take action to prepare for this new level of world trade,

RESOLVES:

15. To thank the Government of Colombia for its hospitality and contributions to the results of the eighth regular meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) in Cartagena, from September 10 to 13, 2013, and to endorse the Declaration of Cartagena, [CIDI/CIP/DEC.1 (VIII-O/13)], and the Action Plan of Cartagena 2014-2015 “Innovative and Competitive Ports for Sustainable Economic Development with Social Inclusion in the Americas,” [CIDI/CIP/PA.1/13 (VIII-O/13)], in which hemispheric consensus was reached on strengthening the CIP Secretariat’s role as a facilitator of policy dialogue among the port authorities of the region; the need to promote public-private partnership in the port sector was recognized; and it has been decided to promote hemispheric cooperation on port issues through institutional and technical capacity-building and the sharing of experiences to help advance the national agendas of member states.

16. To urge the highest port authorities of the OAS member states to participate in the ninth regular meeting of the CIP and the fourteenth meeting of the Executive Board of the CIP, to be held at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C., from June 18 to 20, 2014.

III. CAPACITY BUILDING

Investing in the development of individual and institutional capacities

HAVING SEEN the “Manual of Procedures for the Scholarship and Training Programs of the Organization of American States” (CIDI/doc.61/13),

RESOLVES:

17. To instruct SEDI to present options for discussion at CIDI by August 31, 2014, of the possible inclusion of language training in all four official languages of the OAS as well as technical exchange programs, such as internships and mentorships, within the existing capacity-building and human-development programs of the OAS. These options should consider, among other factors, proposed sources of funding; the potential impact on access to affordable, relevant, and high-quality higher education and professional training; the use of South-South and triangular cooperation for this purpose; the possibilities of cooperation with strategic partners such as those in the Partnerships Program for Education and Training (PAEC) network and the OAS Consortium of Universities; and the cost-effectiveness of and delivery mechanisms for this training.

Migration and development

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 2777 (XLIII-O/13), “Strengthening the Topic of Migration in the OAS”; AG/RES. 2790 (XLIII-O/13), “The Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families”; and all relevant past resolutions;

HIGHLIGHTING the close nexus among migration, development, and human rights founded on the conviction that migrants are individuals with rights, and recognizing that respect for and the effective exercise of the human rights of migrants and taking advantage of the positive aspects of international migration are fundamental pillars of development; and

RECOGNIZING the guidelines for the workings of the Committee on Migration Issues (CAM) and its incorporation in the Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of CIDI; as well as the document “Migration and Development in the Americas” (CIDI/CAM/doc.10/13 rev. 5),

RESOLVES:

18. To instruct the Committee on Migration Issues (CAM) to update the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families, taking into account the diagnostic assessment of said inter-American program contained in document CIDI/CAM/doc.14/14 rev. 1, and to present it to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session.

19. To instruct the CAM, in keeping with the document “Future Framework of Action for the CAM” (CIDI/doc.97/14), also to focus its cooperation work during the 2014-2015 period on comprehensive public policies focused on:

- A. Migrant integration in host countries
 - Media campaigns to dignify the image of migrants and prevent xenophobia
- B. Inclusion of migrants that return to their countries of origin
 - Labor market insertion programs for migrants that return to their countries of origin
- C. Contributions of migrants
 - Recognition and measurement of the economic and social contributions made by migrants in countries of origin and host countries

20. To request SEDI to assist CIDI in including the topic of “migration and development” in the latter’s Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development based on the document “Migration and Development in the Americas” (CIDI/doc.96/14).

21. To request SEDI to keep the CAM informed about the financial sustainability of the Continuous Reporting System on International Migration for the Americas (SICREMI).

22. To urge member states, permanent observers, and regional, international, and civil society organizations and other social actors to consider making voluntary contributions to the work of the CAM.

Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices

RECALLING that resolution AG/RES. 2766 (XLIII-O/13), “Promotion and Strengthening of Democracy: Follow-up to the Inter-American Democratic Charter,” recognizes the importance of promoting the principles, values and practices of a democratic culture, and taking into account that in the Declaration of Paramaribo “Transforming the Role of the Teacher to Meet the Challenges of the 21st Century” (CIDI/RME/DEC.1/12), the ministers reiterated their recognition of the progress made in implementing the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices,

RESOLVES:

23. To request the General Secretariat, through SEDI, to present to CIDI and to the Eighth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education a report on the progress, outcomes, and impacts of the activities and projects carried out under the Program, and to instruct the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE), with the support of the Secretariat, to assess the 2012-2013 Work Plan.

24. To request that the General Secretariat to continue to support member states in the design and execution of the different components of the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices: research and analysis, professional and educational-resource development, and cooperation and exchange of information.

25. To request that SEDI take steps to strengthen and give continuity to the activities of the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices.

Strengthening of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, as well as cooperatives and other production units

RECALLING that the Heads of State and Government, at the Sixth Summit of the Americas,^{3/4/} held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in 2012, resolved to “promote economic growth with equity and social inclusion by strengthening cooperatives, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including cultural industries, in addition to grassroots economic initiatives and other production units, innovation, and competitiveness in the countries of the Americas,” and “to promote and support, as appropriate, initiatives that expand the contribution of ICTs to innovation, entrepreneurship, productivity, competitiveness, the emergence of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, and economic growth, within the framework of sustainable development,” and also pledged “to develop and strengthen, as appropriate, strategies and policies on youth employment”; and

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3. The Republic of Ecuador enters its express reservation to references to the Sixth Summit of the Americas, held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, ...
 4. The Government of Nicaragua considers that the reference to the Summit in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, and the appeal to strengthen the so-called “Summit of the Americas” are inappropriate, ...

RECOGNIZING the work done by the Government of Brazil in hosting, in Brasilia, from 11 to 12 November, 2013, the Third Inter-American Dialogue of High-Level MSME Authorities: “Public Policies to Promote Internationalization of Small and Medium Enterprises,” organized by the Secretariat for Micro and Small Enterprise of the Office of the President of the Republic of Brazil and SEDI, with the support of the Brazilian Service for the Support of Micro and Small Enterprises (SEBRAE) and the Government of Canada,

RESOLVES:

26. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue to give support to all efforts by member states aimed at promoting the creation, productivity, competitiveness, innovation and internationalization of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), as well as cooperatives and other production units, by strengthening the institutional framework that supports them and facilitating wider access to seed capital, so as to contribute to economic growth, job creation, and poverty alleviation, especially among at risk youth and other vulnerable populations in the countries of the Hemisphere.

27. To instruct SEDI to take note of the Final Report of the Third Inter-American Dialogue of High-Level MSME Authorities and of the document “Reflections on the Inter-American Support for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.”

Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC)

HAVING SEEN resolution AG/RES. 2586 (XL-O/10), “Inter-American Competitiveness Network,” which urges member states to support programs and initiatives to promote integration, cooperation, and partnership, and to enhance competitiveness and promote social development and sustainable economic growth with equity and social inclusion in the countries of the region, and instructs the General Secretariat to lend support, as appropriate, to the member states in this effort,

RESOLVES:

28. To acknowledge with satisfaction the leadership shown by Chile, United States, Dominican Republic, Colombia and Panama as Pro Tempore Chairs of the Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC) in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013, respectively, and as venues for the meetings of the Americas Competitiveness Forum (ACF); and to thank the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for serving as Pro Tempore Chair of the RIAC in 2014 and hosting the upcoming eighth ACF, to be held in Port of Spain from October 8 to 10, 2014.

29. To request SEDI to take note of the RIAC 2014 Work Program on “The Human Imagination at Work: Driving Competitiveness, Powering Innovation” approved in Panama in 2013, including the activities of the Task Force on Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the Group of Experts on Sub-national Competitiveness.

Promotion of corporate social responsibility (CSR) in the Hemisphere

RECALLING the General Assembly resolutions on promotion of corporate social responsibility (CSR) in the Hemisphere, and recognizing the responsibility of member states to

promote natural-resource management projects in an environmentally protective, financially transparent, and socially responsible manner, and that CSR practices are an essential component of these projects,

RESOLVES:

30. To instruct SEDI to present an annual report on its current and expected corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives to a regular meeting of CIDI, no later than November 30, 2014, and to invite other OAS entities and areas to attend this presentation and share more about their CSR activities, so as to facilitate better coordination.

Promotion of integrated water resource management in the Americas

RECALLING that the Inter-American Democratic Charter recognizes that a safe environment is essential to the integral development of the human being, which contributes to democracy and political stability; and that in the Social Charter of the Americas member states recognize that water is fundamental for life and central to socioeconomic development and environmental sustainability and that non-discriminatory access by the population to safe drinking water and sanitation services, in the framework of national law and policies, contributes to the objective of combating poverty;

HAVING SEEN resolutions AG/RES. 1440 (XXVI-O/96), "Sustainable Development"; AG/RES. 2312 (XXXVII-O/07), "Report of the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development within the Framework of CIDI"; AG/RES. 2347 (XXXVII-O/07), "Inter-American Meeting on the Economic, Social, and Environmental Aspects of the Availability of, and Access to, Drinking Water"; AG/RES. 2644 (XLI-O/11), "Report of the Second Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development within the Framework of CIDI"; and AG/RES. 2780 (XLIII-O/13) "Promoting Integrated Water Resource Management in the Americas"; and

RECOGNIZING the importance of water to the region in the context of global dialogue toward the establishment of a post-2015 development agenda,

RESOLVES:

31. To request the General Secretariat to continue to promote dialogue on the water agenda in the Americas in the framework of CIDI, in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

32. To request SEDI to continue to strengthen technical cooperation and the exchange and discussion of information, experiences, best practices, and lessons learned through the national focal points designated by member states of the OAS in the area of water resource management.

33. To request SEDI to continue moving forward with the effective implementation of the ongoing PIDS 2006-2009 and the action initiatives in the area of integrated water resource management agreed upon by the ministers and high-level authorities on sustainable development in

the Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10 and the Declaration of Santo Domingo for the Sustainable Development of the Americas.

Promoting clean and renewable energy in the Americas

RECOGNIZING that energy is fundamental to achieving sustainable development objectives and that therefore the combination and complementarity of use of all types of energy sources, including biofuels and a cleaner use of fossil fuels, contributes to the attainment of those objectives, and underscoring the need to promote the development and use of clean and renewable energy through research, development, the transfer of environmentally sound technology, and international partnerships and/or agreements,

RESOLVES:

34. To request the General Secretariat to promote regional dialogue toward developing reliable, cleaner, more-affordable, renewable, and sustainable energy systems that facilitate access to energy and energy-efficient technologies and practices in households and in the public and private sectors.

35. To request SEDI to continue encouraging partnerships to promote the development and use of renewable, clean, and more-efficient technologies in all sectors and to evaluate, based on the financial resources available, the possibility of coordinating with other specialized agencies the production of a map showing the status of production and use of clean and renewable energy in the Americas, with a view to presenting the findings prior to the forty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly.

IV. REPORTING AND FOLLOW UP

36. To thank those member states that have contributed financial, logistical, and human resources to support of the programs and activities mentioned in this resolution, and to request SEDI to continue with the identification of new sources of financing.

37. To request SEDI to update its annual work plan, to include:

- i. specific mandates to address the overall objectives defined in the previous annual work plan, including mandates issued by this General Assembly session and those contained in the declarations and plans of action of the CIDI ministerial and inter-American committee meetings held during the past year;
- ii. programs and projects and activities undertaken by the different programming areas of SEDI departments, pursuant to said mandates;
- iii. if necessary, the reasons why certain mandates have no defined schedule for implementation; and
- iv. outcomes expected and achieved since the last work plan.

This plan should be submitted through CIDI for consideration by the member states by July 31, 2014, and an update current to December 15, 2014, should be presented by January 31, 2015, to inform the formulation of new mandates.

38. To request CIDI to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... (paragraph 15 of the Declaration of Quebec City and paragraph 6.A of the Plan of Action, and paragraph 12 of the Declaration of Nuevo León), as well as in resolution AG/RES. 2014 (XXXIV-O/04), “Trade and Integration in the Americas,” and prior resolutions with the same title, as well as in the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development. The content of this footnote applies to all mentions of the Summits of the Americas process and of the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development included in this resolution.

3 ... on April 14 and 15, 2012, without prejudice to the contents approved by Ecuador in other negotiation contexts, as appropriate.

4. ... in that during that event, the Heads of State and Government were unable to consider or adopt the Political Declaration, which reflected the common will of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for the sister republic of Cuba to participate unconditionally and on a footing of sovereign equality. We reaffirm that a “Summit of the Americas” cannot be held without the presence of Cuba. The mandates and operative paragraphs on the core themes were part of the Political Declaration and as the latter were not adopted, neither were the former. For that reason, Nicaragua disagrees with making references to these documents and mandates that were not adopted.

AG/RES. 2817 (XLIV-O/14)

STRENGTHENING THE INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT:
POLICY DIALOGUE AND PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Charter of the Organization of American States, in particular, Chapter VII, “Integral Development,” and Chapter XIII, “The Inter-American Council for Integral Development”; and the Social Charter of the Americas;

HAVING SEEN ALSO resolutions CIDI/RES. 135 (VIII-O/03) “Approval of the Statutes of the Capital Fund for the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs”; CEPCIDI/RES. 175 (CLXIV-O/10), “Strengthening of the Special Multilateral Fund of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (FEMCIDI): Establishment of a Transition Period Aimed at Putting into Practice the Proposed Structure for FEMCIDI”; CIDI/RES. 291 (XXXIII-O/13), “Adapting the Structure of the Special Multilateral Fund of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development”; AG/RES. 2740 (XLII-O/12), “Extension of the Mandate of the CEPCIDI Working Group to Strengthen CIDI and Its Organs”; AG/RES. 2746 (XLII-O/12), “Strengthening Partnership for Integral Development”; AG/RES. 2751 (XLII-O/12), “Promotion and Incorporation of New Forms of Cooperation for Integral Development”; and AG/RES. 2778 (XLIII-O/13) “Strengthening the Inter-American Council for Integral Development: Policy Dialogue and Partnership for Development”;

I. STRENGTHENING POLICY DIALOGUE AND
PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

RECOGNIZING that in the framework of the process of reflection and consultation to strengthen the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and its subsidiary organs initiated in 2007, the Working Group to Strengthen CIDI and its Organs has been implementing its work plan (CIDI/GT/FORCIDI/doc.91/13),

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), to provide the necessary support to the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to continue strengthening its substantive policy dialogue in the framework of its monthly regular meetings and seeking synergies and complementarities between the topics it addresses and the sectoral ministerial processes.

2. To request SEDI to provide support to CIDI so that, in the framework of its substantive policy dialogues, it can review and update its long-term priorities, taking into account, *inter alia*, the guidelines from the Permanent Council on the mandate review and prioritization process, with a view to taking a comprehensive approach to development in the Hemisphere.

3. To request SEDI to continue working to maximize synergies within and among its departments in order to realize greater efficiencies, build on the linkages among the topics under its responsibility, and strengthen the formulation and implementation of its programs, projects, and activities.

Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That within the framework of the general policy and priorities defined by the General Assembly as well as mandates from CIDI, including from its sectoral meetings of ministers and high-level authorities, the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development is essential for coordinating policies,^{1/} programs, and measures for action in the area of partnership for integral development;

That said Strategic Plan establishes a framework for action at two strategic levels. The first, the policy level, aims at strengthening the dialogue as well as the institutional arrangements and mechanisms that are critical to the ability of both governments and the General Secretariat to implement the Plan. The second, the programmatic level, seeks to ensure a focused and effective implementation of the Plan by identifying a number of priority areas that are of special concern to member states and in which the Organization of American States (OAS) enjoys a comparative advantage; and

That the Statutes of CIDI stipulate that the Strategic Plan “shall have a four-year planning target period, subject to adjustment when the General Assembly considers it appropriate” and instruct CIDI to formulate and recommend the Strategic Plan to the General Assembly and to examine and, if appropriate, adopt proposals for preparing and updating the Strategic Plan; and

RECOGNIZING the dialogue of member states regarding the OAS development agenda, held at the thirty-seventh regular meeting of CIDI, held on April 14, 2014, at which the member states expressed their views on strengthening the development pillar of the Organization,

RESOLVES:

4. To extend the term of the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development 2006-2009 until December 31, 2015.

5. To instruct SEDI to provide the necessary support to CIDI to begin the preparation of the next Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development 2016-2020 so that it may present its results before the forty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly, taking into consideration the areas of action of SEDI and the linkages with the Social Charter of the Americas and the latter’s future Plan of Action, as well as the results of the Working Group of the Permanent Council on the Strategic Vision of the OAS, among other relevant instruments.

1. The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reiterates its reservations to the FTAA, as formulated in the declarations and plans of action of the Summits of the Americas ...

Reactivation of the Capital Fund for the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs

RECALLING that the Capital Fund for the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs was established in 1997 as one of the mechanisms for financing the Organization's Scholarship and Training Programs;

RECALLING ALSO that the Fund Statutes establish that the purpose of the Fund is to "establish and maintain an endowment for the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs" and that its policies must be consistent with the objectives, procedures, and practices of the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs of assisting member states with their domestic efforts in pursuit of integral development goals by supporting human-resource development in the priority areas established by CIDI's Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development , in response to the Summits of the Americas and the General Assembly of the Organization; and

CONSIDERING that the last meeting of the Committee of the Capital Fund for the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs was on October 5, 2011 and that the terms of the members of the Committee have expired,

RESOLVES:

6. To request CIDI, in accordance with Article III of the Statutes of the Committee of the Capital Fund for the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs, to hold elections for the members of said Committee.

7. To request the Committee of the Capital Fund for the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs to present preliminary options to CIDI for the sustainable investment, growth and use of the Fund in order to facilitate political discussions within CIDI regarding the preparation of the 2015-2016 program budget.

II. STRENGTHENING COOPERATION MECHANISMS AND MODALITIES

Definitive structure of the Special Multilateral Fund of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (OAS Development Cooperation Fund – OAS/DCF)

CONSIDERING:

That CIDI has launched a process of substantive dialogue with a view to supporting the process of reflection by the states to focus the work of the OAS in the area of integral development, maximize existing resources, and take advantage of comparative advantages;

That a process of reflection and consultation is taking place within the framework of CIDI in order to explore alternatives for strengthening CIDI and its organs and for improving how they function;

That part of that process has been to examine how to strengthen partnership for development in the OAS arena in general, with a view to adapting it to the new realities of cooperation in the

Hemisphere and to strengthen in a comprehensive and effective manner, the various cooperation approaches—including triangular and South-South cooperation and, in particular, the operations of the Special Multilateral Fund of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (FEMCIDI);

That, in October 2010, the erstwhile Permanent Executive Committee of CIDI (CEPCIDI) adopted resolution CEPCIDI/RES. 175 (CLXIV-O/10) initiating a transition period for implementing a new structure in which cooperation activities in the education, science and technology, culture, and tourism sectors were approved and which are currently in progress; and

That CEPCIDI instructed the CIDI Working Group to Strengthen CIDI and Its Organs to examine the operations of that transitory structure with a view to adopting a definitive structure, and that said Group presented its final report and recommendations to CIDI at its thirty-eighth regular meeting, on May 22, 2014, recommending a definitive structure and the necessary changes to the Statutes of the FEMCIDI and Provisions Regarding Other Partnership for Development Resources and to the criteria for selecting FEMCIDI partnership for development programs, and proposing that the Fund change its name to the OAS Development Cooperation Fund (OAS/DCF),

RESOLVES:

8. To acknowledge the value of FEMCIDI and the benefits it has generated in the member states through the partnership-for-development activities it has financed, as well as the need to restructure it in accordance with the new realities of cooperation in the Hemisphere; to strengthen, in a comprehensive and effective manner, the various cooperation approaches—including triangular and South-South cooperation; and to promote greater alliances to finance cooperation projects and activities, so that it may respond more effectively to the needs of the member states.

9. To recognize the efforts of the CIDI Working Group to Strengthen CIDI and Its Organs in the study of FEMCIDI operations and the transitory period; the proposals set forth to reach a definitive structure; and the contributions of the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD).

10. To rescind the Statutes of the FEMCIDI and Provisions Regarding Other Partnership for Development Resources.

11. To adopt the Statutes of the OAS Development Cooperation Fund (OAS/DCF) and Provisions Regarding Other Partnership-for-Development Resources, contained in document CIDI/doc.99/14 rev. 1, which is an integral part of this resolution, and to note that the latter document changes the name of the former FEMCIDI to the OAS Development Cooperation Fund (OAS/DCF).

12. To appeal to the member states to continue and increase their voluntary contributions to the OAS/DCF.

13. To request CIDI, with the support of the General Secretariat, to revise the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, as well as the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of CIDI and those of its organs, in order to adapt them in accordance with the document mentioned in operative paragraph 11 above, including the FEMCIDI name change and, where their amendment requires the approval of the General

Assembly, to present its recommendations to the latter at its forty-fifth regular session, to be held in 2015. Until those regulatory amendments are made, all references to FEMCIDI in the aforesaid regulatory documents shall be construed as referring to the OAS Development Cooperation Fund (OAS/DCF). The name of the Fund contained in the any legal documents pertaining to cooperation activities currently in progress under FEMCIDI shall not be amended and those activities shall continue to be governed by the regulations in force at the time of their approval.

14. To instruct the General Secretariat to take the necessary administrative measures to reflect, in the internal directives in effect, the changes to the structure and name of the former FEMCIDI adopted in the foregoing operative paragraph 11, so that, *inter alia*: (i) all voluntary contributions remitted to the Organization and intended for FEMCIDI shall be accredited to OAS/DCF; and, (ii) resources now available in the FEMCIDI sectoral accounts, as well as the balances remaining upon the conclusion of activities now under way, shall be made available to the OAS/DCF and transferred from the integral development account referred to in the Statutes adopted in the foregoing operative paragraph 11 and made available for future programming under such fund.

15. To instruct the General Secretariat to take, through SEDI, the necessary measures to begin programming and execution of partnership-for-development activities, following the calendar contained in the execution schedule (Article 17) of the adopted Statutes. as an exception, and only for this first cycle, to agree that member states that make voluntary contributions in 2014 and in at least one of the two prior years, 2012 and 2013, may participate in this cycle. Member states that have contributed in only one of those years (2012, 2013, or 2014), or that send their 2014 contribution outside the deadline, shall be governed by Article 13 of the Statutes of the OAS/DCF.

Promotion and incorporation of other cooperation mechanisms and modalities

CONSIDERING that the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) reviewed the various forms of cooperation and financing mechanisms used by the OAS, including FEMCIDI, in order to identify recommendations and guidelines to promote and consolidate such modalities in order to link them with existing and potential financing mechanisms;

RECOGNIZING the importance of promoting the various forms of OAS, horizontal, South-South, and triangular cooperation, which are mechanisms for knowledge-transfer, solidarity, and commitment to democracy and development in the Hemisphere;

VALUING the results achieved in the 2008 Course of Action of Playa del Carmen, and the 2009 Consensus of Bogotá with respect to strengthening and coordinating hemispheric development cooperation; and

TAKING NOTE of the dialogue at the Regional Forum on Effective Development Cooperation, held at OAS headquarters on March 7, 2014, which addressed challenges and opportunities for middle-income countries, the role of the private sector in the area of cooperation, as well as South-South and triangular cooperation,

RESOLVES

16. To thank the Management Board of the IACD for its efforts and the vision of the Chair during the 2013-2014 term, which enabled progress in studying and strengthening various forms of cooperation, coordination of the work of the OAS secretariats engaged in cooperation efforts, and support for holding the Regional Forum on Effective Development Cooperation.

17. To adopt the “Guidelines for the Strengthening of the Various Modalities of Cooperation for Development” (CIDI/doc.95/14).

18. To request SEDI, based on the aforementioned guidelines, to promote and strengthen its existing cooperation mechanisms and modalities.

19. To urge the member states to hold meetings of high-level cooperation authorities every three years, in order to steer partnership for development policies within the Organization.

20. To instruct SEDI to provide support to the Management Board of the IACD for moving forward with the IACD regulatory review, including its Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of its Management Board, with a view to submitting them to CIDI for consideration.

21. To request the Management Board of the IACD, with the support of SEDI, to prepare a strategy for fundraising and creating strategic alliances in the area of partnership for development by October 31, 2014.

III. REPORTING AND FOLLOW-UP

22. To request SEDI to update its annual work plan, to include:

- i. specific mandates to address the overall objectives defined in the previous annual work plan, including mandates issued by this General Assembly session and those contained in the declarations and plans of action of the CIDI ministerial and inter-American committee meetings held during the past year;
- ii. programs and projects and activities undertaken by the different programming areas of SEDI departments, pursuant to said mandates;
- iii. if necessary, the reasons why certain mandates have no defined schedule for implementation; and
- iv. outcomes expected and achieved since the last work plan.

This plan should be submitted through CIDI for consideration by the member states by July 31, 2014, and an update current to December 15, 2014, should be presented by January 31, 2015, to inform the formulation of new mandates.

23. To request the Permanent Council and CIDI to convene a joint special meeting in advance of the forty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly to analyze the range of instruments and initiatives associated with OAS work in the area of integral development, including

that of the General Secretariat and the specialized funds it oversees, and that of affiliated bodies such as the Pan American Development Foundation, the Trust for the Americas, and the Young Americas Business Trust, all with a view to improving their effective implementation and alignment with the development pillar.

24. To request CIDI to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

FOOTNOTE

1. ... (paragraph 15 of the Declaration of Quebec City and paragraph 6.A of the Plan of Action, and paragraph 12 of the Declaration of Nuevo León), as well as in resolution AG/RES. 2014 (XXXIV-O/04), “Trade and Integration in the Americas,” and prior resolutions with the same title. The content of this footnote applies to all mentions of the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development included in this resolution.

APPENDIX I

OEA/Ser.W
CIDI/doc.99/14 rev. 1 *
29 July 2014
Original: Spanish/English

STATUTES OF THE OAS DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FUND (OAS/DCF) AND
PROVISIONS REGARDING OTHER PARTNERSHIP
FOR DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

(Agreed upon at the thirty-eighth regular meeting of CIDI,
held on May 22, 2014)

CHAPTER I

SOURCES OF FINANCING
FOR PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

Article 1. These Statutes govern the operation of the OAS Development Cooperation Fund (OAS/DCF), which is established to contribute to the financing of national and multilateral cooperation programs, projects, and activities (hereinafter referred to as “partnership-for-development activities”) carried out under the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development (hereinafter the “Strategic Plan”). These Statutes also identify other funds administered by the General Secretariat that may contribute to the financing of partnership-for-development activities.

Article 2. The resources to finance partnership-for-development activities are grouped in the following funds: OAS Development Cooperation Fund (OAS/DCF), specific funds, trust funds, and the Regular Fund of the Organization, as applicable.

The resources contained in these funds shall be used in accordance with the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (hereinafter the “General Standards”), these Statutes, and the pertinent regulations.

Article 3. The member states will participate in financing partnership-for-development activities by making voluntary contributions to the OAS/DCF. Member states may also make special contributions or grants to specific funds and trust funds.

Article 4. Permanent observer states to the Organization of American States (OAS) and other member states of the United Nations, as well as individuals or public or private entities, whether national or international, may participate in financing partnership-for-development activities

* Reviewed by the Style Committee of the forty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly.

by making contributions or grants to specific funds and trust funds, pursuant to the General Standards.

Article 5. Interest accrued on the funds covered by these Statutes shall be considered income of the corresponding fund and shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of the General Standards.

CHAPTER II FINANCING USING OAS/DCF RESOURCES

A. Nature and Composition

Article 6. The OAS/DCF is made up of the voluntary contributions of member states and other assets.

Article 7. The Integral Development Account is based on the priorities established in the Strategic Plan and the Reserve Account that shall be established with 10 percent of the annual voluntary contributions of member states. The Reserve Account shall maintain for unforeseen activities a sum equivalent to 3 percent of the amount of resources existing in the OAS/DCF.

Article 8. Member states may assign their voluntary pledges for the Integral Development Account to one or several sectoral accounts, in the proportions that each contributing member state decides, within the established deadlines.

Article 9. The Integral Development Account includes the priorities established in the strategic plan in force:

- a. Social development and creation of productive employment
- b. Education
- c. Economic diversification and integration, trade liberalization, and market access
- d. Scientific development, and exchange and transfer of technology
- e. Strengthening of democratic institutions
- f. Sustainable development of tourism
- g. Sustainable development and environment
- h. Culture

The sectoral accounts must be reviewed based on the priorities established in the Strategic Plan.

The Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) may establish sub-accounts, where necessary, based on priorities under the Strategic Plan.

Article 10. OAS/DCF resources shall finance:

- a. Technical meetings, seminars, and workshops that contribute to inter-American dialogue and partnership for development cooperation;
- b. Partnership-for-development activities carried out under the Strategic Plan with the approval of the Management Board of the IACD;
- c. A contribution for technical supervision and administrative support, in keeping with the General Standards in relation to Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR);
- d. Special appropriations expressly authorized by the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to deal with situations or activities unforeseen in the programming of partnership-for-development activities.

Article 11. The OAS/DCF resources may not be used to finance career service staff. OAS/DCF resources may only finance temporary personnel on contracts for limited times and firms and independent contractors using performance contracts, to implement a specific partnership-for-development activity approved by CIDI and only for the duration of said specific activity.

B. Contributions to the OAS/DCF

Article 12. Member states will make their pledges taking into account the last five contributions that they made and bearing in mind the projection of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (hereinafter "SEDI") as to resources necessary for financing partnership-for-development activities.

Article 13. Member states shall comply with the following requirements for use of OAS/DCF funds:

- a. They must have made a pledge of a contribution before the deadline specified in Article 17.a of these Statutes.
- b. They must have paid in full their pledged contribution prior to the deadline specified in Article 17.b of these Statutes.

Member states that were not included in the Programming, Obligation, and Execution Schedule (hereinafter the "Schedule") because they did not make a contribution to a specific programming cycle, but are nonetheless interested in contributing to and being beneficiaries of the activities envisaged in a particular program of that cycle without altering the manner in which the latter is formulated, should request the Management Board of the IACD to have their late contributions considered as received in the corresponding cycle. The participation of those states in the corresponding activities under the cycle in question shall be limited by the availability of funds during said cycle.

In the event that available resources are insufficient to program a specific cycle, SEDI shall notify the IACD of the situation in order to decide on an appropriate response aimed at allowing the member states to receive the benefits of the Fund.

Article 14. Pledges for contributions to the OAS/DCF and payment of such pledges shall be made in United States dollars.

Payment of these pledges may be made partially in the local currency of the member state in question, within the limits established by the Secretary General, taking into consideration the needs for expenditures in the currency of that country.

Article 15. Member states shall be entitled to participate in the Programmatic Framework with their respective activities, which shall be financed from resources obtained by the OAS/DCF on the condition that the member states have paid up their pledges within the deadline specified in Article 17.b of these Statutes.

Article 16. In exceptional cases, the Management Board of the IACD may extend the deadline for paying pledges.

C. Programming, Obligation, and Execution of Partnership-for-Development Activities

Article 17. The partnership-for-development activities financed by the OAS/DCF shall be governed by the Schedule with the following deadlines:

Voluntary contributions from member states

- a. Voluntary contribution pledges to the OAS/DCF shall be made in writing no later than July 31 of each year.
- b. Member states shall make their annual contributions to the OAS/DCF no later than October 31. Those contributions shall be added to the seed capital for the appropriate programming cycle, in order to continue creating synergies and raise additional funds from potential external partners.
- c. On the basis of the contributions that they regularly provide to the OAS/DCF, member states shall submit letters of commitment and support to the OAS/DCF process, which will serve as a token of their commitment to potential partners/donors for the programs that will be implemented.

Definition of programming

- d. In order to develop a clearly defined objective, the Technical Cooperation Section (TCS) of SEDI, in coordination with the national liaison offices (ONEs) and the pertinent national authorities, shall identify the corresponding area of action of the Strategic Plan as well as the thematic areas that may be helpful in its formulation, including Education and Science and Technology as crosscutting themes.
- e. The TCS, in collaboration with each member state's ONE, shall hold consultations and organize a survey to identify the member states' priorities for the areas of action of the Strategic Plan and the corresponding thematic areas for up to four programs.

- f. The TCS shall present the results of the survey to CIDI for its consideration and approval of the area of action and the thematic areas, which will define up to four programs for initial formulation of the proposed Programmatic Framework by April 15 of the first year of the programming cycle.
- g. The Management Board of the IACD shall confirm the amount of seed funding available for the programming cycle by April 30.
- h. To ensure the participation of each member state in the formulation of programs and the identification of activities, member states shall be requested, through their permanent missions, to submit a letter confirming their participation in one of the programs, in accordance with their needs, and identifying the executing agency(ies) and the responsible official(s) in each participating country, by May 15.
- i. The IACD Management Board will increase member state participation to more than one program to the extent that financial resources allow.
- j. The TCS, in collaboration with the SEDI departments and in close coordination with the ONEs and the pertinent national authorities, shall develop a proposed three-year Programmatic Framework for implementation that shall include the objective, programs with their respective activities, and the budget for each approved thematic area, including evaluation costs, by August 30.
- k. SEDI shall present the Programmatic Framework to the Management Board of the IACD for its consideration and approval by September 30.

Programming implementation

- l. By October 15, the TCS shall prepare and send to the member states the necessary documentation (execution agreements and appropriate forms).
- m. Each participating member state shall present an execution plan, including the budget and Schedule for the entire three-year duration of the program according to the dates established in the execution agreement.
- n. The participating member states (executing agency and ONE) shall sign the execution agreements by December 15.
- o. SEDI shall obligate the resources for program execution at the beginning of each programming cycle upon receipt of the signed execution agreements from the member states.

Financial disbursements

- p. Disbursements for the execution of programs can be processed immediately after the resources have been obligated and once the executing agencies have presented a

satisfactory implementation plan for executing the activities in each country and signed the respective execution agreements.

- q. Funds will be disbursed every six months based on the presentation of satisfactory progress reports. Where a report is unsatisfactory, a decision in that regard shall be adopted by the IACD Management Board in accordance with the provisions of the execution agreement.

Monitoring and evaluation

- r. The national coordinators of each program shall have 90 days following the signing of the agreement to submit a monitoring and evaluation plan to the TCS that shall cover all three years of the program's execution.
- s. A monitoring and evaluation plan is included in the corresponding execution plan.
- t. The TCS shall prepare a mid-term follow-up report on implementation of the programming cycle (at the end of the second year), in order to make any necessary execution changes to ensure that programs are being implemented satisfactorily.
- u. A final evaluation of programs, coordinated by the TCS jointly with the Department of Planning and Evaluation (DPE), shall be performed at the end of the respective programming cycle, which shall be carried out by a qualified independent evaluator, according to standards defined in the respective execution agreement.

This Schedule may be amended by the IACD Management Board in accordance with its regulations. The IACD Management Board shall notify CIDI of its decision to make any such changes within five working days following the date of that decision.

Article 18. The TCS shall prepare, in consultation with the ONEs and the pertinent national authorities and with support from the SEDI departments, the programs mentioned in Article 17.e, taking into account the guidelines on cooperation contained in the Strategic Plan.

Programs will have a multinational approach for implementing partnership-for-development activities and will reflect an adequate regional balance.

Article 19. The Programmatic Framework for partnership-for-development activities approved by the Management Board of the IACD shall be adjusted to be consistent with the amount of resources collected by the closing date of the payment period indicated in the Schedule, plus any balances approved but unobligated from the previous programming cycle.

Article 20. The IACD Management Board shall approve each programming period. It shall reflect an adequate balance in allocating available resources, endeavoring to target the most pressing needs of the member states, especially developing economies and countries with smaller economies.

Article 21.

- a. The Management Board of the IACD shall approve the programs for the appropriate programming cycle.
- b. The programs may not be renewed once the original objectives have been achieved.
- c. The Management Board of the IACD may, by exception, extend the execution deadline of a program if said activity has been unable to achieve its objectives within the established time frame due to unforeseen circumstances.

Article 22.

Appropriations and obligations

- a. Appropriations for partnership-for-development programs shall be made available to meet the obligations contracted within the time frame established in Article 17.k of these Statutes, and shall be disbursed in accordance with the provisions of Article 17.p. However, and only to the extent necessary to liquidate obligations pending at the end of the year for which they were approved, the aforementioned appropriations may be extended for up to six months beyond the final year for which they were approved, after which time they shall expire irrevocably. Once this deadline has passed, funding for the continuation of activities as approved by the Management Board in accordance with the provisions of Article 21 shall be the object of new appropriations and subject to the availability of funds in the corresponding account.

Any funds unexpended at the close of the execution period shall revert to the account from which they came and shall be made available for reprogramming.

Special appropriations

- b. Should it be necessary to make a special budgetary appropriation against the OAS/DCF for activities unforeseen in the approved programming of partnership-for-development activities, the IACD Management Board shall decide the approval of said appropriation on the recommendation of the Executive Secretary for Integral Development in his capacity as Director General of the IACD. Such recommendation shall be accompanied by a statement identifying the source of the funds available for programming.

CHAPTER III
FINANCING WITH SPECIFIC FUNDS

Article 23. In exercise of his powers under Article 74 of the General Standards, the Secretary General may establish specific funds in separate accounts to address particular interests of the member states and other contributors in the area of partnership for development, within the scope of the Strategic Plan.

The purposes and limitations of these funds shall be defined in precise terms in accordance with the corresponding instruments establishing them, and CIDI and the IACD Management Board shall be informed thereof.

The specific funds shall be made up of contributions from the contributors identified in Articles 3 and 4 of these Statutes, in accordance with agreements or contracts entered into by the General Secretariat in exercise of the powers conferred on it by the Charter.

Article 24. The Capital Formation Fund is a specific fund to which the contributors identified in Articles 3 and 4 may provide resources for the purpose of forming interest-bearing capital to be used as follows:

- a. For reimbursable financing of partnership-for-development activities carried out by entities of the member states;
- b. For co-financing of partnership-for-development activities carried out with entities of the member states;
- c. For counterpart funds for co-financing joint and complementary activities carried out with other international or regional governmental and nongovernmental organizations; and
- d. For fellowship, scholarship, and training programs.

The operating procedures of the Capital Formation Fund shall be duly regulated.

CHAPTER IV FINANCING WITH TRUST FUNDS

Article 25. In exercise of his powers under Article 75 of the General Standards, the Secretary General may establish trust funds in separate accounts, for the purpose of carrying out or strengthening partnership-for-development activities.

The purposes and limitations of these funds shall be defined in precise terms in accordance with the corresponding instruments establishing them, and CIDI and the IACD Management Board shall be informed thereof.

Trust funds shall be established by bequests or grants to finance purposes specified by the donor or legator, held in trust, and used in accordance with the pertinent provisions or instruments.

CHAPTER V FINANCING USING THE REGULAR FUND

Article 26. Appropriations from the Regular Fund that are authorized for CIDI are intended to finance the regular services of CIDI, its bodies and subsidiary agencies, and SEDI.

Article 27. Based on Article 72 of the General Standards, the Regular Fund shall be used to finance the following, as authorized in the Organization's program-budget:

- a. Regular, special, sectoral, or specialized meetings of CIDI, at the ministerial level or its equivalent;
- b. Meetings of CIDI and its subsidiary bodies, meetings of the nonpermanent specialized committees, and those of the inter-American committees and other CIDI bodies and agencies, meetings of the IACD Management Board, and programming meetings;
- c. A contribution to support the operations of SEDI;
- d. Technical supervision and administrative support of programs;
- e. Multilateral integral development programs, as established in Article 31 of the Charter of the OAS and as specifically identified in the approved program-budget.
- f. Fellowship, scholarship, and training programs.

Article 28. Contributions to the Regular Fund and to the IACD Fund for Operations established in Article 14 of the IACD Statutes for technical supervision and administrative support shall be made in accordance with the terms established in the General Standards.

CHAPTER VI GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 29. SEDI is responsible to CIDI, the IACD Management Board, and the Secretary General for the application of these Statutes, on the basis of the functions and responsibilities assigned to it under the Statutes of CIDI and of the IACD.

Article 30. These Statutes shall enter into force upon approval by CIDI.

Article 31. These Statutes may be amended by CIDI at its regular meetings observing the necessary coherence with the General Standards, the CIDI Statutes, and the IACD Statutes. The IACD Management Board may modify the Schedule in the manner envisaged in Article 17.

Amendments to the Statutes may be proposed by CIDI, the IACD Management Board, the Secretary General, or the Executive Secretary for Integral Development.

Article 32. The OAS/DCF is governed by the provisions of these Statutes and by the pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly and CIDI.

Article 33. OAS/DCF funds must not be used for any purpose other than the programs approved by the Management Board of the IACD within the Programmatic Framework of each programming cycle.

CHAPTER VII TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

First. The surveys mentioned in Article 17.e shall be conducted in accordance with a format previously agreed upon by the member states, in the framework of CIDI.

Second. As of the second and subsequent programming cycles, the work of conceptually formulating the objective and programming tasks, as well as external fundraising, will start at the same time as the third year of implementation of the previous programming cycle in order to ensure that the OAS/DCF's activities are ongoing and progressive.

Third. At the end of the first programming cycle, following a report by SEDI, the member states shall evaluate the time frames of programming cycles.

AG/RES. 2818 (XLIV-O/14)

CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE CONTEXT OF
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE HEMISPHERE

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN resolutions AG/RES. 1440 (XXVI-O/96), “Sustainable Development”; AG/RES. 1674 (XXIX-O/99), “Climate Change in the Americas”; AG/RES. 1736 (XXX-O/00) and AG/RES. 1821 (XXXI-O/01), “The Socioeconomic and Environmental Impacts of Climate Change on the Countries of the Hemisphere”; AG/RES. 2312 (XXXVII-O/07), “Report of the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development within the Framework of CIDI”; AG/RES. 2429 (XXXVIII-O/08), “Human Rights and Climate Change in the Americas”; AG/RES. 2588 (XL-O/10) and AG/RES. 2649 (XLI-O/11), “Climate Change in the Countries of the Hemisphere”; and AG/RES. 2644 (XLI-O/11), “Report of the Second Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development within the Framework of CIDI”; and

CONSIDERING:

That socioeconomic development and environmental protection are interdependent pillars of sustainable development, of which poverty eradication is an essential target;

That climate change generates adverse impacts throughout the Hemisphere, causing deterioration in the quality of life and the environment for present and future generations;

That the most recent scientific evidence, including the Fifth Assessment Report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), indicates that it is necessary to reduce global emissions in order to stabilize the earth’s temperature in the medium and long terms;

That member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the international community share the responsibility of finding effective and equitable solutions to climate change in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and their respective capabilities, and all other principles, objectives and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);^{1/}

That OAS member states of the face significant risks from the adverse impacts of climate change, particularly those that are vulnerable in accordance with the UNFCCC, and require adaptation strategies to counteract such impacts;

1. The United States is committed to working with partners in the region and the international community to address climate change, including under the United Nations Framework Convention ...

That the General Assembly has adopted resolutions and declarations to support the efforts of member states on climate change and sustainable development, including efforts related to the implementation of the UNFCCC, among other multilateral agreements and instruments, and that therefore, an important component of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS) is the support provided to countries and subregional and regional institutions in their efforts to respond to the adverse effects of climate change;

That the 20th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 20) to the UNFCCC will be held in Lima, Peru, from December 1 to 12, 2014, marking the fifth time of holding this conference in the Americas and representing a valuable opportunity to demonstrate the region's commitment to addressing the global challenge of climate change; and

That the Second Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development within the Framework of CIDI, held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic in 2010, extended the term of the PIDS to 2014 and urged the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development to initiate a review and update of that Program,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the commitments assumed in the relevant instruments, resolutions, and declarations on sustainable development and climate change in the framework of the Organization of American States (OAS).

2. To continue and to strengthen efforts made within the General Secretariat of the OAS in support of member states towards the achievement of commitments made in the area of sustainable development and climate change, in order to counter the adverse effects of climate change; build the capacity of the states, populations, and vulnerable ecosystems to adapt to climate change; and intensify efforts to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, in accordance with the principles, objectives and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).^{2/}

3. To support dialogue and cooperation prior to and during the 20th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 20) to the UNFCCC, to be held in Lima, Peru, from December 1 to 12, 2014; provide support to the Government of Peru as incoming President of the Conference; and express its highest commitment to seeking an ambitious, inclusive, balanced, and effective outcome of that session, under the UNFCCC, taking account of all negotiating positions.

4. To urge all OAS member states to work together, based on the decisions adopted at the 19th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 19) of the UNFCCC, toward adopting a protocol, another legal instrument, or an agreed outcome with legal force under the UNFCCC applicable to all parties, as agreed at COP 17, in Durban, and to use COP 20 as a stepping stone to ensure the success of COP 21, which will be held in Paris, France, in December 2015.

2. Idem.

5. To instruct the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development, in the review and update of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS), to:

- a. Continue its efforts to address the adverse effects of climate change as an essential element of the Program, especially with regard to the most vulnerable states of the Hemisphere;
- b. Take into consideration the outcomes of COP 20, to be held in Lima, Peru, including tasks for implementation and pending matters;
- c. Consider the outcomes of the consultations on the focus area of climate change that are now under way at the multilateral and hemispheric levels, as well as efforts related to the advancement by the OAS member states of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the sustainable development goals related to climate change;
- d. Consider the conclusions of the Fifth Assessment Report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), especially the conclusions on the effects of climate change in the Hemisphere.

6. To request the Inter-American Council on Integral Development, with support from the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development, to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

FOOTNOTE

1. ... on Climate Change (the Convention). The United States reserves with regard to references in the resolution to the Convention to the extent that they may be understood to suggest that the Convention's principles apply to cooperative efforts in forums beyond the Convention. The United States also notes that the Convention Parties are currently developing a post-2020 agreement, to which the Convention principles will apply, as appropriate, to the post-2020 time period.

AG/RES. 2819 (XLIV-O/14)

SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES IN THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECOGNIZING that, because the world population is projected to exceed 9 billion persons by 2050 and two-thirds of that population is expected to live in cities, efforts must be intensified to achieve sustainable development and, in particular, the eradication of poverty, hunger, and preventable diseases;

CONSIDERING that Latin America and the Caribbean have the highest urbanization in the developing countries, that the proportion of the region's inhabitants living in cities grew from 41 percent to 80 percent over the past 60 years, and that two of every three inhabitants of Latin American and Caribbean cities live in poverty;

BEARING IN MIND that the Millennium Development Goals emphasize the following targets under goal 7 to ensure environmental sustainability: (i) integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources; (ii) reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss; (iii) halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation; and, (iv) achieve, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers;

BEARING IN MIND ALSO that the Social Charter of the Americas recognizes that conservation and sustainable use of natural resources are fundamental and interrelated challenges facing the Hemisphere;

CONSIDERING that, at the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in 1996, the Heads of State and Government of the Americas pledged to execute the first Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Americas, based on the principles set out in the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra;

RECALLING the importance of the Declaration of Santo Domingo for the Sustainable Development of the Americas, of the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain, and of the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development 2006-2009, current until December of 2014; and

RECOGNIZING the outcomes of the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, which was held in Medellin, Colombia, from April 5 to 11, 2014, and attended by over 140 countries to discuss urban equity in development, planning, basic services, financing, resiliency, security, the Habitat Agenda, and their contributions to the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III),

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the commitments adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Americas in the Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Americas, in the framework of the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in 1996, in the areas referring to sustainable cities and communities.
2. To continue promoting policy dialogue on strategies in the framework of the Organization of American States and continue supporting best practices in the development of sustainable cities and communities in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
3. To request the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development to implement, through the Department of Sustainable Development, activities designed to strengthen training in policies, programs, tools for sustainable cities, as well as exchanges of experience among the member states.
4. To take note of the Medellin Declaration of the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, in which the governments, the private sector, international organizations, academia, professionals, civil society, and other social actors reaffirmed the importance of cities in the new Post-2015 Development Agenda.
5. To request the Inter-American Council for Integral Development to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2820 (XLIV-O/14)

INTERNATIONAL MOTHER EARTH DAY

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECOGNIZING that Mother Earth is a common expression for the planet earth in a number of countries and regions, which reflects the interdependence that exists among human beings, other living species, and the planet that we all inhabit;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that resolution 63/278, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on April 22, 2009, designates April 22 as International Mother Earth Day, noting that Earth Day is observed in a number of countries every year;

RECALLING that said resolution acknowledges “that the Earth and its ecosystems are our home, and convinced that in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social, and environmental needs of present and future generations, it is necessary to promote harmony with nature and the Earth”; and

CONSIDERING that it is the responsibility of member states to promote and strengthen environmental protection at the national and regional levels,

RESOLVES:

1. To welcome the designation of April 22 as International Mother Earth Day, recognized by various countries and regions.
2. To invite member states and permanent observers to observe International Mother Earth Day and raise awareness that a healthy environment is vital to integral development.
3. To invite member states to continue developing public policies geared toward natural disaster prevention and mitigation, early warning, and protection, to prevent disruption of the cycles and processes that ensure life.

AG/RES. 2821 (XLIV-O/14)

TOWARD AUTONOMY FOR AND STRENGTHENING OF OFFICIAL PUBLIC DEFENDERS
AS A GUARANTEE OF ACCESS TO JUSTICE

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING Article 8 of the American Convention on Human Rights, which broadly establishes judicial guarantees; resolutions AG/RES. 2656 (XLI-O/11), AG/RES. 2714 (XLII-O/12), and AG/RES. 2801 (XLII-O/13); the “Brasilia Regulations Regarding Access to Justice for Vulnerable People”; and the universal, indivisible, and interdependent nature of human rights;

AFFIRMING that member states have an obligation to respect and guarantee the exercise of the rights recognized in the international treaties to which they are party and in their domestic legislation, removing the obstacles that may impair or limit access to a public defender, in such a way as to ensure full and free access to justice;

CONSIDERING that access to justice, as a fundamental human right, is also the means of restoring the exercise of rights that have been disregarded or violated; and underscoring that access to justice is not limited to ensuring admission to a court but applies to the entire process, which must be conducted in keeping with the principles of the rule of law;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the vital importance that the services of official public defenders/criminal and civil legal aid providers be functionally, financially, and technically independent and autonomous;

UNDERSCORING the conclusions of the special meeting on the exchange of best practices and experiences with the work of public defenders, held in the OAS Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs in 2013 and 2014;

HIGHLIGHTING the fruitful work being done by inter-American public defenders in protecting the rights of victims of human rights violations under the aegis of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Inter-American Association of Public Defender Offices (AIDEF) and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS), through the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), and the Memorandum of Understanding between the AIDEF and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (I-ACtHR), which instruments were established to coordinate efforts between the AIDEF and international agencies to guarantee and boost access to inter-American justice for alleged victims who lack financial means and legal representation in cases taken to the IACHR and the I-ACtHR;

HIGHLIGHTING ALSO the general cooperation agreement between the General Secretariat of the OAS and the AIDEF to create cooperation mechanisms between the two bodies in areas of common interest, such as promotion and dissemination of international human rights law and the inter-American system; organization of research and exchange of experience; and establishment of forums to facilitate dialogue with networks and actors in the sector with a view to strengthening the

service offered by official public defenders, etc., in whose framework the OAS has imparted numerous training courses for the region's public defenders on the organization and workings of the OAS and human rights, in particular, in Washington, D.C. (May 2012), Argentina (March 2013), and Brazil (August 2013); and

TAKING NOTE of the report on the system of best practices with the issue of access to justice in the Americas, prepared by the Department of International Law of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs pursuant to the mandate of the General Assembly,

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize those member states that have attained functional, financial, administrative, and/or budgetary autonomy, guaranteeing access to justice.

2. To affirm that access to justice, as a fundamental right, is also the means of restoring the exercise of rights that have been denied or violated.

3. To support the work being done by official public defenders in the states of the Hemisphere, which constitutes a core aspect for strengthening access to justice and consolidating democracy.

4. To affirm the fundamental importance of cost-free legal counsel services furnished by official public defenders in promoting and protecting access to justice for everyone, particularly those who are especially vulnerable, at all stages of proceedings.

5. To reiterate once again to those member states that already provide free legal counsel to take steps to ensure that official public defenders have an adequate budget and are independent and functionally, financially and/or budgetarily, and technically autonomous.

6. To underscore, without prejudice to the diversity of the legal systems of each country, the importance of the independence and the functional and financial and/or budgetary autonomy of official public defender services, as part of member states' efforts to guarantee an efficient public service that is free from any interference and improper control by other branches of government that might impair its functional autonomy, and whose mandate is to protect the interests of the person it is defending.

7. To once again encourage member states that do not yet have the institution of free legal counsel to consider the possibility of establishing it within the framework of their legal order.

8. To urge member states to promote the participation of public defenders in the inter-American human rights system, so that the right to a technical defense is exercised and ensured from the very first step in proceedings instituted against a person at the national level to, as applicable, the adoption of a judgment by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

9. To encourage states and public defender offices in the region to cooperate with extant international and regional human rights protection mechanisms and instruments, such as those for the prevention of torture and the protection of vulnerable groups, in order to enhance access to justice for the most disadvantaged.

10. To urge member states to foster international cooperation opportunities for sharing experience and best practices in the area of public defender services.

11. To encourage states and the organs of the inter-American system to promote agreements regarding courses and training for official public defenders.

12. To encourage states to implement the Regional Guidelines for Public Defender Systems and Comprehensive Protection for Persons Deprived of Their Liberty, prepared by the (AIDEF), an unprecedented document in the region that is concerned, in particular, with the critical situation of this vulnerable group in the Hemisphere.

13. To request the Permanent Council to hold in the first quarter of 2015 a third special meeting in the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs in order to exchange best practices and experiences in implementing resolutions AG/RES. 2656 (XLI-O/11), AG/RES. 2714 (XLII-O/12), and AG/RES. 2801 (XLII-O/13), specifically in relation to access to justice and the autonomy of and cooperation among public defender offices in the first quarter of 2015, inviting member states and their respective official public legal aid institutions, as well as members of the AIDEF, scholars, experts from civil society, and international organizations to attend.

14. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2822 (XLIV-O/14)

RIGHT TO THE TRUTH

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING resolutions AG/RES. 2175 (XXXVI-O/06), AG/RES. 2267 (XXXVII-O/07), AG/RES. 2406 (XXXVIII-O/08), AG/RES. 2509 (XXXIX-O/09), AG/RES. 2595 (XL-O/10), AG/RES. 2662 (XLI-O/11), AG/RES. 2725 (XLII-O/12), and AG/RES. 2800 (XLIII-O/13), “Right to the Truth”; the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture; the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons; the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, and other inter-American and other related international instruments on human rights and international humanitarian law; the reports of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the right to the truth (A/HRC/12/19) and on forensic genetics and human rights (A/HRC/15/26); resolution A/HRC/RES/18/7, adopted by the Human Rights Council, which creates the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, and the latter’s report A/HRC/21/46; United Nations General Assembly resolution 60/147, which adopts the Basic Principles and Guidelines On the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law; the recommendations of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the decisions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on this subject; and, in that regard, the need for the Organization of American States to continue to review this issue in the framework of the efforts of its political bodies and of the human rights promotion and protection organs of the inter-American human rights system;

EMPHASIZING that member states should provide appropriate and effective mechanisms for society as a whole and, in particular, for members of the victims’ families to learn the truth regarding gross human rights violations and serious violations of international humanitarian law; and, within the framework of their own internal legal systems, should preserve records and other evidence concerning serious violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law so as to facilitate knowledge thereof, investigate allegations, and provide victims with access to an effective remedy in accordance with international law, in order to prevent these incidents from occurring again in the future, among other reasons;

TAKING NOTE of resolution 65/196 of the United Nations General Assembly, “Proclamation of 24 March as the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims”; and

RECALLING that the right to the truth may be characterized differently in some legal systems as the right to know or to be informed, or as freedom of information,

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize the importance of respecting and ensuring the right of victims of gross violations of human rights and grave breaches of international humanitarian law, and of their families and society as a whole, to know the truth regarding such violations to the fullest extent practicable, in particular, the identity of the perpetrators, the causes and facts of such violations, and the circumstances under which they occurred, in order to contribute to ending impunity and to promoting and protecting human rights.

2. To encourage member states to establish specific judicial mechanisms, where necessary, and to respect their decisions; and to encourage the creation of other non-judicial or ad hoc mechanisms, such as truth and reconciliation commissions, that contribute to the work of the justice system and to the investigation of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law; and to express appreciation for the preparation and publication of their reports and, accordingly, to invite the member states concerned to disseminate these reports, implement their recommendations, monitor the implementation of said recommendations at the domestic level, and report on compliance with the decisions of judicial mechanisms.

3. To call upon the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to consider completing the right to the truth requested in resolutions AG/RES. 2175 (XXXVI-O/06), AG/RES. 2267 (XXXVII-O/07), AG/RES. 2406 (XXXVIII-O/08), AG/RES. 2509 (XXXIX-O/09), AG/RES. 2595 (XL-O/10), AG/RES. 2662 (XLI-O/11), AG/RES. 2725 (XLII-O/12), and AG/RES. 2800 (XLIII-O/13), in order to continue the progressive development of this right with a view to finalizing a special meeting to be organized by the Permanent Council in the second half of 2014 to discuss the IACHR report and exchange national experiences.

4. To hold, as stipulated in the preceding resolutions, a special meeting of the Permanent Council in the second half of 2014 to discuss the IACHR report and exchange national experiences.

5. To encourage member states and the IACHR, within its sphere of competence, to provide member states that so request with the necessary and appropriate assistance concerning the right to the truth through, *inter alia*, technical cooperation and the sharing of experiences and good practices geared toward the protection, promotion, and implementation of this right.

6. To encourage member states to consider extending an invitation to the United Nations Human Rights Council's Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence.

7. To urge those member states that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying, or acceding to, as appropriate, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

8. To encourage all member states to take appropriate measures to establish mechanisms or institutions to reconstruct the truth and the historical record for disseminating information on human rights violations and ensuring that citizens have appropriate access to said information, in order to further the exercise of the right to the truth, prevent future human rights violations, and establish accountability in this area.

9. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution shall be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2823 (XLIV-O/14)

ADOPTION OF THE FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM FOR IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE PROTOCOL OF SAN SALVADOR

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

BEARING IN MIND the “Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly 2013-2014” (AG/doc.5470/14 add. 1), as well as resolutions AG/RES. 2074 (XXXV-O/05), AG/RES. 2178 (XXXVI-O/06), AG/RES. 2262 (XXXVII-O/07), AG/RES. 2430 (XXXVIII-O/08), AG/RES. 2506 (XXXIX-O/09), AG/RES. 2582 (XL-O/10), AG/RES. 2666 (XLI-O/11), AG/RES. 2713 (XLII-O/12), AG/RES. 2798 (XLIII-O/13), and CP/RES. 1022 (1951/13);

UNDERSCORING the entry into force in November 1999 of the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, (Protocol of San Salvador) and that 16 member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) have ratified said legal instrument;

UNDERSCORING ALSO that Article 19 of the Protocol of San Salvador establishes that the States Parties undertake to submit, pursuant to that article and the corresponding rules to be formulated for that purpose by the General Assembly, periodic reports on the progressive measures they have taken to ensure due respect for the rights set forth in the Protocol; and that the corresponding rules were established by resolution AG/RES. 2074 (XXXV-O/05) and recently updated by resolution AG/RES. 2713 (XLII-O/12);

CONSIDERING that, by resolution AG/RES. 2713 (XLII-O/12), the General Assembly adopted the document “Progress Indicators for the Measurement of the Rights Considered in the Protocol of San Salvador” (GT/PSS/doc.2/11 rev. 2), prepared by the Working Group to Examine the Periodic Reports of the States Parties to the Protocol of San Salvador in relation to the first group of rights (rights to social security, health, and education), on the understanding that these are guidelines and criteria for the states parties, which will be able to adapt them to the sources of information available to them in order to comply with the provisions of the Protocol;

CONSIDERING ALSO that, subsequently, the Permanent Council, pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 2798 (XLIII-O/13), adopted resolution CP/RES. 1022 (1951/13), approving the document “Progress Indicators for Measuring Rights under the Protocol of San Salvador – Second Group of Rights” (GT/PSS/doc.9/13) corresponding to the right to work and trade union rights, the right to a healthy environment, the right to food, and the right to the benefits of culture; through resolution CP/RES. 1022 (1951/13);

BEARING IN MIND that the Working Group has its full complement of regular members and has been operative, therefore, since June 2010, and that it has been complete since April 2014, given the appointment of all its alternate members, with the inclusion of Laura Elisa Pérez Gómez, a Mexican citizen; and

REITERATING that none of the provisions of this resolution shall pertain to those member states that are not parties to the Protocol of San Salvador,

RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the progress indicators for measuring the second group of rights under the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (Protocol of San Salvador) (right to work and trade union rights, right to a healthy environment, right to food, and right to the benefits of culture), on the understanding that these are guidelines and criteria for the States Parties, which will be able to adapt them to the sources of information available to them in order to comply with the provisions of the Protocol, and to express its appreciation to the Working Group to Examine the Periodic Reports of the States Parties to the Protocol of San Salvador for preparing and presenting them for consideration by the General Assembly.

2. To celebrate the fact that the Follow-up Mechanism for Implementation of the Protocol of San Salvador is complete and operative, following the adoption of all the progress indicators for measuring rights.

3. To remind the States Parties to the Protocol of San Salvador that they should submit national progress reports corresponding to the first group of rights included in the document “Progress Indicators for the Measurement of the Rights Considered in the Protocol of San Salvador,” which refers to the rights to education, social security, and health, before June 30, 2014.

4. To request the States Parties to the Protocol of San Salvador to submit national progress reports on the second group of rights, corresponding to the right to work and trade union rights, the right to a healthy environment, the right to food, and the right to the benefits of culture, within a period of two years from the adoption of this resolution – before June 30, 2016.

5. To take note of the appointment by the Secretary General, in April 2014, of the alternate independent expert of the Working Group to Examine the Periodic Reports of the States Parties to the Protocol of San Salvador, pursuant to the mandate contained in resolution AG/RES. 2798 (XLIII-O/13), thus leaving the Working Group fully constituted in accordance with the rules governing its operations.

6. To request the Technical Secretariat of the aforementioned working group to review all existing regulations concerning the composition, designation, and rotation of the members of the Working Group and the length of their terms of office and, as necessary, to submit to the General Assembly any adjustments and clarifications required to ensure the group’s smooth operation in its review of the periodic reports of the States Parties.

7. To urge member states to consider signing and ratifying, ratifying, or acceding to, as the case may be, the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Protocol of San Salvador).

8. To renew the invitation to contribute to the Specific Fund for the Working Group to Examine the Periodic Reports of the States Parties to the Protocol of San Salvador to all the States Parties to the Protocol of San Salvador, the member states and permanent observers, as well as

national or international, public or private persons or entities, as defined in Article 74 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat and other provisions and regulations of the Organization of American States.

9. To request that the Permanent Council report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2824 (XLIV-O/14)

RECOGNITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN
DESCENT^{1/}

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 2550 (XL-O/10), which recognizes the International Year for People of African Descent;

BEARING IN MIND:

That the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in that instrument, without distinction of any kind, particularly for reasons of race, color, or national origin;

That the Charter of the Organization of American States establishes as one of the principles of the Organization recognition of the fundamental rights of the individual without distinction as to race, nationality, creed, or sex;

That the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man establishes that all men are born free and equal, in dignity and in rights, without distinction as to race, sex, language, creed, or any other factor;

That the Social Charter of the Americas states: "Member states recognize the contributions of indigenous peoples, afro-descendants, and migrant communities to the historical process of the Hemisphere and will promote recognition of their value"; and

That the Inter-American Democratic Charter proclaims that respect for ethnic, cultural, and religious diversity in the Americas contributes to strengthening democracy and citizen participation;

MINDFUL of the historical bonds and shared experiences which tie together the American and African continents, the fundamental contributions of persons of African descent and their communities in the Americas, and the importance of recognizing and preserving that heritage;

RECALLING the relevant provisions on people of African descent contained in the declarations of the Summits of the Americas, as well as in the Declaration of the Regional Conference of the Americas (Preparatory Meeting for the Third World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance) held in Santiago, Chile, in 2000; and the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean Preparatory to the Durban Review Conference held in Brasilia, Brazil, in 2008;

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1. The United States has consistently objected to the negotiation of new legally binding instruments against racism, racial discrimination and other forms of discrimination or intolerance...

RECOGNIZING the valuable contributions at every level of the member states to the effective exercise of the fundamental rights of the population of African descent;

BEARING IN MIND that in February 2005, in recognition of the racial discrimination that persists against persons of African descent in the Americas, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) established a Special Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons of African Descent and against Racial Discrimination, in order to promote the recognition and the rights of those persons;

RECALLING ALSO the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993; the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001; and the Outcome Document of the Durban Review Conference against Racism held in Geneva in 2009;^{2/}

CONSIDERING that the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 64/169, “International Year for People of African Descent,” which proclaimed 2011 the International Year for People of African Descent, with a view to strengthening national actions and regional and international cooperation for the benefit of people of African descent in relation to their full enjoyment of economic, cultural, social, civil, and political rights; their participation and integration in all political, economic, social, and cultural aspects of society; and the promotion of greater knowledge of and respect for their diverse heritage and culture;

RECALLING that the Ibero-American High Level Meeting [CHECK Summit?] to Celebrate the International Year of People of African Descent in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, in November 2011, recognized that “despite the progress achieved in various countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to promote the rights of people of African descent, great challenges remain to ensure the full inclusion of this population segment on equal conditions in the social, cultural, economic, and political life, taking into account different national realities”;

RECALLING ALSO the Third World Summit of Afro-descendant Mayors and World Leaders, held in Cali and Cartagena, Colombia, in September 2013; and the Latin America and Caribbean Region Meeting on the Decade for People of African Descent, held in Brasilia, Brazil, in March 2014;

REAFFIRMING the steadfast commitment of the member states to confront the scourge of racism, discrimination, and intolerance in their societies as a problem that affects society in general; and

TAKING NOTE of the General Assembly’s June 5, 2013 adoption of the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance, and the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance, which help to consolidate the democratic content of the principles of legal equality and nondiscrimination,

2. While Canada supports the essence and objectives of this resolution, it opposes the references to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference against Racism, ...

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the importance of the full and equal participation of people of African descent in all aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural life in the countries of the Americas.
2. To take note of resolution 68/237, adopted by consensus at the United Nations General Assembly on December 23, 2013, in which it was decided to proclaim the International Decade for People of African Descent, commencing on 1 January 2015 and ending on 31 December 2024, with the theme “People of African descent: recognition, justice and development.”
3. To also note with satisfaction the Communiqué of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States that proclaimed the Decade of Latin American and Caribbean Afro-descendants, beginning on January 1, 2014, and concluding on December 31, 2023.
4. To instruct the Permanent Council to hold a special meeting in the first half of 2015 to celebrate the start of the International Decade for People of African Descent, with a view to exchanging ideas on preparing an OAS plan of action for the Decade.
5. To request that the Permanent Council report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... We reiterate our longstanding reservations and concerns with that exercise and the resulting conventions. We are concerned that some provisions of the conventions could undermine or are incompatible with international human rights law protections including those related to freedoms of expression and association. There is already a robust global treaty regime that provides comprehensive protections in this area. The Inter-American instrument runs the risk of creating inconsistencies with this global regime. as early as 2002, the Inter-American Juridical Committee articulated similar concerns, concluding that it was not advisable to negotiate a new convention in this area. The United States believes that – rather than promoting those new instruments -- the resources of the OAS and of its member states should be used to identify practical steps that governments in the Americas might adopt to combat racism, racial discrimination and other forms of discrimination and intolerance, including best practices in the form of national legislation and enhanced implementation of the global instruments.

2. ... Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001 and related processes contained in the preamble of this resolution. Instead of fostering concerted global action against racism, the 2001 Conference degenerated into a politicized forum which served to promote intolerance and anti-Semitism, rather than combat it. Canada firmly believes that the Durban process remains highly politicized to this day and that it has been unable to distance itself from its controversial past, including its open and divisive expressions of intolerance and anti-Semitism. While Canada disapproves of the reference to this process in this resolution, Canada will nevertheless continue to work in practical ways with the OAS and its member states towards addressing racism, promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, as well as recognizing and promoting the rights of people of African descent in the Hemisphere.

AG/RES. 2825 (XLIV-O/14)

DRAFT INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON PROTECTING
THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS^{3/4/}

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 2792 (XLIII-O/13), “Draft Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons” and all its pertinent earlier resolutions;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The mandate articulated by the Heads of State and Government at the Sixth Summit of the Americas “to advance in strengthening the protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of older persons through promotion of public policies, programs, and services, thus safeguarding their dignity, their physical, mental and social well-being, and their quality of life, bearing in mind efforts underway at the inter-American level to draft a legally binding instrument for the protection of the rights of older persons and consideration of the issue at the international level”;^{5/} and

The presentation to the Permanent Council on April 26, 2012, of the Draft Inter-American Convention on the Human Rights of Older People (CAJP/GT/DHPM-37/12) pursuant to the mandate in resolution AG/RES. 2654 (XLI-O/11);

RECOGNIZING the progress made by the Working Group on Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons with the formal negotiation of the Draft Inter-American Convention on the Human Rights of Older Persons, as seen in document CAJP/GT/DHPM-37/12 add. 29 corr. 1, which shall be used as the basis to continue with the formal process of negotiation aimed at preparing an inter-American convention on the human rights of older persons; and

CONVINCED of the need for a legally binding regional instrument to protect the human rights of older persons,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Permanent Council to extend the mandate of the Working Group on Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons, so that it can conclude the process of formal negotiation of the Draft Inter-American Convention on the Human Rights of Older Persons and seek to present it to the General Assembly for adoption at its forty-fifth regular session.

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3. Canada reserves its position on the necessity of creating a draft inter-American convention for the advancement and protection of the rights of older persons pending the outcome ...
 4. The United States remains convinced of the importance of working in the OAS and in the United Nations to address the many challenges faced by older persons in this Hemisphere
 5. The Republic of Ecuador enters its express reservation to references to the Sixth Summit of the Americas, held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, ...

2. To urge member states to continue to make every effort and their resolute participation in order to conclude the negotiations on the Draft Inter-American Convention on the Human Rights of Older Persons.

3. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution shall be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

FOOTNOTES

1. ...of deliberations in the UN Open-ended Working Group on Ageing concerning a recommended approach to addressing the needs of this vulnerable group. Canada is notably concerned by the prospect of duplication of international work in this area and believes it prudent to await clarification from the UN Open-ended Working Group concerning what gaps may exist in the current international rights framework in this area and what additional instruments, if any, may be required before the OAS considers the relative merit of moving ahead with an inter-American convention. Canada encourages the OAS to focus on strengthening the effectiveness of existing human rights instruments rather than creating new and potentially duplicative processes before there is a clearly identified need.

2. ... and throughout the world, including with respect to their enjoyment of human rights. However, the OAS should await the conclusions of the United Nations Open-ended Working Group on Ageing and consider those conclusions before continuing its already lengthy and costly, multilateral process of negotiating and drafting an inter-American convention. We, therefore, have not participated actively in the Working Group on Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons and reserve our position on the draft that the Working Group has prepared. Moreover, the United States continues to encourage the OAS to focus on measures to improve respect by member states for their human rights obligations to older persons under existing human rights treaties as a potentially more effective and immediate way to address what we all recognize to be very serious problems in this area.

3. ... on April 14 and 15, 2012, without prejudice to the contents approved by Ecuador in other negotiation contexts, as appropriate.

AG/RES. 2826 (XLIV-O/14)

PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF STATELESSNESS
AND PROTECTION OF STATELESS PERSONS IN THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 1693 (XXIX-O/99), AG/RES. 1762 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1832 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1892 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1971 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2047 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2511 (XXXIX-O/09), AG/RES. 2599 (XL-O/10), AG/RES. 2665 (XLI-O/11), and AG/RES. 2787 (XLIII-O/13) on the issue of prevention and reduction of statelessness and protection of stateless persons in the Americas;

CONSIDERING that at the ministerial meeting of the United Nations member states on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 50th anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, held in Geneva, Switzerland, on December 7 and 8, 2011, the participating states recognized that “the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons are the principal international statelessness instruments, which provide important standards for the prevention and resolution of statelessness and safeguards for the protection of stateless people” and considered becoming a party to them, where appropriate, and/or strengthening their policies that prevent and reduce statelessness;

EMPHASIZING that on that occasion, several member states formally adopted specific commitments with regard to their accession to the applicable international instruments and to the adoption of measures to establish national mechanisms for determining statelessness;

CONSIDERING ALSO that in the Brasilia Declaration on the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons in the Americas of November 11, 2010, it was resolved to “urge countries in the Americas to consider acceding to the international instruments on statelessness, reviewing their national legislation to prevent and reduce situations of statelessness, and strengthening national mechanisms for comprehensive birth registration”;

EMPHASIZING that this year marks the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and that, as part of the commemorations for the 30th anniversary of the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees (Cartagena+30), the member states are considering the adoption of a new strategic framework with which to promote the protection of stateless people and refugees over the coming decade;

NOTING that the legislation of some member states considers that recognition of stateless persons is a declaratory, humanitarian, and apolitical act, granted in accordance with the principles of due process;

CONVINCED that statelessness is a serious global humanitarian problem that calls for broad international cooperation and the development of related programs, based on the recognition of the fundamental responsibility of states to prevent and reduce statelessness;

RECOGNIZING that 17 member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) are parties to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and that 12 are parties to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, and noting Nicaragua's recent accession to both international instruments, Jamaica's accession to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, and Peru's adherence to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons;

EMPHASIZING the tradition in the countries of the Americas to prevent and reduce statelessness by granting nationality through the combined application of the principles of *ius soli*, for children born in their territories, and of *ius sanguinis*, for those born in other countries;

RECOGNIZING that some countries of the region have recently introduced legislative amendments or practices to determine the status of, or to provide protection to, stateless persons;

EMPHASIZING the importance of the right of all persons to nationality in the Americas, recognized in Article XIX of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and in Article 20 of the American Convention on Human Rights, as well as the relevance of promoting accession to the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness;

UNDERSCORING the importance of the Inter-American Program for Universal Civil Registry and the Right to Identity, given that recognition of the identity of persons is one of the means through which observance of the rights to recognition as a person before the law, a name, a nationality, civil registration, and family relationships is facilitated, among other rights recognized in international and inter-American instruments;

STRESSING the positive contribution of the member states in the process of adoption of Conclusion No. 111 (LXIV) on civil registration by the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which notes that the lack of civil registration and related documentation makes persons vulnerable to statelessness and associated protection risks, and that birth registration without discrimination of any kind is essential to the reduction and prevention of statelessness;

RECOGNIZING the usefulness of employing the UNHCR Guidelines on Statelessness in interpreting and enforcing the applicable international provisions, and noting with satisfaction the recent publication of the UNHCR Handbook on Protection of Stateless People;

RECOGNIZING ALSO the organization of the Second Latin American Course on Statelessness, held in Costa Rica on April 29 and 30, 2013, and attended by officials from governments and the UNHCR, and the inclusion of a module on statelessness in the 40th Course on International Law organized by the Inter-American Juridical Committee with the support of the Department of International Law of the OAS Secretariat for Legal Affairs and held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on August 5 to 23, 2013; and

EXPRESSING its appreciation to UNHCR for its work in the region to support member states in their efforts to prevent and reduce statelessness and to protect stateless persons, and for the technical and financial assistance provided,

RESOLVES:

1. To invite member states to use the commemorations of the 30th anniversary of the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees and the 60th anniversary of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons to identify the challenges and the actions necessary to eradicate statelessness from the Americas, and to include a chapter on the subject in the future regional strategic framework arising from the commemorative process.

2. To emphasize the importance of the international instruments for the protection of stateless persons and for the prevention and reduction of statelessness, and to invite those member states that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the international instruments on statelessness, as applicable, and to create or strengthen the technical agencies responsible for overseeing their proper implementation.

3. To urge member states, with the technical support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), to follow up on the commitments assumed at the Ministerial Intergovernmental Event on Refugees and Stateless Persons to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Geneva, 2011) and on such other international commitments as they may have adopted in this area.

4. To urge member states, without prejudice to their ratification of or accession to the international instruments on statelessness, to consider amending or adopting, as applicable, domestic laws to comprehensively regulate all matters relating to the identification and protection of stateless people and their appropriate documentation, and to include in their nationality laws appropriate safeguards to prevent and reduce new cases of statelessness and to eliminate those that already exist.

5. To instruct the Inter-American Juridical Committee to draft, in consultation with the member states, a set of Guidelines on the Protection of Stateless Persons, in accordance with the existing international standards on the topic.

6. To urge member states, in accordance with their domestic laws and, when applicable, in collaboration with and with the support of the UNHCR, to enforce the legal and practical measures necessary to overcome difficulties in making entries in civil registries, establishing or strengthening existing institutions responsible for civil records, building their capacity, and ensuring data security and confidentiality.

7. To ask member states and the international community to assist and support the strengthening and consolidation of the UNHCR's programs on the identification, prevention, and reduction of statelessness and the international protection of stateless persons, so that it may continue to monitor the implementation of international instruments on statelessness and support efforts to eradicate statelessness.

8. To reaffirm the importance of international cooperation in the provision of appropriate technical and advisory services to prepare and implement legislation regarding nationality and effective protection to stateless persons.

9. To instruct the Permanent Council, through the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs and with support from the Department of International Law of the General Secretariat and such technical and financial cooperation as may be provided by the UNHCR, to continue emphasizing the problems of statelessness in its promotional and training activities and to organize, during the first quarter of 2015, an international course on statelessness for members of the permanent missions of the member states, the staff of the General Secretariat, and other interested parties.

10. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2827 (XLIV-O/14)

COORDINATION OF VOLUNTEERS IN THE HEMISPHERE
IN RESPONSE TO DISASTERS AND THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER
AND POVERTY – WHITE HELMETS INITIATIVE

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the General Secretariat's reports on the White Helmets Initiative; resolutions AG/RES. 1351 (XXV-O/95), AG/RES. 1403 (XXVI-O/96), AG/RES. 1463 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 2018 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2165 (XXXVI-O/06), AG/RES. 2372 (XXXVIII-O/08), AG/RES. 2558 (XL-O/10), and AG/RES. 2704 (XLII-O/12); and declarations AG/DEC. 45 (XXXV-O/05) and AG/DEC. 55 (XXXVII-O/07);

REAFFIRMING the guiding principles of international humanitarian assistance: humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and operational independence, and the primary and principal responsibility of the state to care for disaster victims;

HIGHLIGHTING the efforts made by the member states, the inter-American system, international agencies, international organs and organizations, and subregional mechanisms in disaster prevention and response and in the coordination of humanitarian assistance;

RECALLING the importance of reaching a commitment by member states to facilitate the timely and effective exchange of information, tools, successful experiences, and best practices among countries, international agencies, regional and subregional entities, and organizations, social actors, and civil society bodies, with respect to risk management and disaster assistance, and of avoiding duplication of efforts by coordinating the region's existing mechanisms;

UNDERSCORING the Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Fourth Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from May 19 to 23, 2013, and in Guayaquil, Ecuador, from May 27 to 29, 2014, respectively;

TAKING NOTE of the Inter-American Plan for Disaster Prevention and Response and the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance and of the efforts made by the inter-American system, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), the Forum on Coordination and Cooperation of Subregional Agencies for Disaster Risk Management in the Americas, and the regional meetings of International Humanitarian Assistance Mechanisms (MIAH), among other mechanisms and initiatives in the Hemisphere;

CONVINCED that it is necessary to improve international humanitarian assistance coordination mechanisms, given that, in the present scenario, disasters affecting the region are increasingly frequent;

EMPHASIZING that the situation of humanitarian action has changed considerably, particularly because many governments have boosted their national and regional disaster management capabilities, in many cases becoming assistance donors and sharing their experience and expertise through South-South cooperation;

MINDFUL of the new challenges that will be posed in a new post-2015 Hyogo Framework for Action, of the need for a crosscutting approach that integrates climate change and sustainable development policies, and of the importance of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015, and the World Humanitarian Summit, to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in June 2016;

BEARING IN MIND the permanent assistance rendered by the White Helmets Initiative to the Republic of Haiti and the missions deployed over the past two years in Argentina, Bolivia, and Brazil in response to the floods that affected their territories; in Guatemala on the occasion of the earthquake in 2012; in Dominica, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines due to the Christmas storms at the end of 2013; as well as the projects for the development of risk management volunteers in Guatemala and El Salvador, the systematization of experiences in the Dominican Republic as a humanitarian assistance transit country, and the training workshops to strengthen national risk management systems in the Caribbean held in Saint Kitts and Nevis and Jamaica;

UNDERSCORING the 20th anniversary of the first resolution on the White Helmets Initiative adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and further emphasizing that the initiative has been a pioneer at the regional level, deploying volunteer missions or relief supplies both in disasters and in response to humanitarian crises arising from conflicts; and

RECOGNIZING that the actions undertaken by the White Helmets Initiative are in alignment with the principles of the Charter of the Organization of American States, are carried out at the request of the affected state and in close collaboration with its relevant national authorities, and are governed by the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and operational independence,

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate its support for the White Helmets Initiative as one of the valuable mechanisms in the Hemisphere for disaster prevention, reduction, and response, and for fighting hunger and poverty.
2. To encourage the General Secretariat to continue strengthening and coordinating actions between the White Helmets Initiative and the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development, and with other relevant bodies and mechanisms of the Organization of American States (OAS), and also to continue encouraging other agencies and institutions in the region to enter into partnerships and working agreements.
3. To encourage the White Helmets Initiative to continue promoting regional humanitarian cooperation as it expands, and, within that framework, to continue sharing its experiences and best practices in responding to and preparing for disasters.

4. To invite those member states that so wish to designate focal points for the White Helmets Initiative and create, where appropriate, national volunteer corps systems to comprise the Regional Humanitarian Volunteer Corps Network.

5. To invite those member states that so wish to make contributions to the OAS/White Helmets Special Fund, recalling that in recent years the Fund has enabled the holding of national and international seminars and training workshops, the implementation of local capacity-building projects, and humanitarian assistance missions in countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

6. To request the General Secretariat to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2828 (XLIV-O/14)

PREVENTION AND ERADICATION OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
AND SMUGGLING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN BOYS, GIRLS, AND ADOLESCENTS
OF BOTH SEXES

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

BEARING IN MIND:

Resolution AG/RES. 2771 (XLII-O/13), “Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Exploitation and Smuggling of and Trafficking in Minors,” as well as other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in previous years on the subject of sexual exploitation, human smuggling, and trafficking in persons; and

The importance of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989 and of its Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography of 2000; the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime of 2006; the First Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, held in Venezuela; the Rio de Janeiro Declaration and Call for Action to Prevent and Stop Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents of 2008; and the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World, that came out of the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Salvador, Brazil, in 2010;

RECALLING the resolutions adopted by the Directing Council of the Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN) regarding the prevention and eradication of sexual exploitation, smuggling, and trafficking in boys, girls and adolescents of both sexes, particularly resolution CD/RES. 10 (82-R/07), adopted in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in 2007, which established the Inter-American Program for the Prevention and Eradication of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Smuggling of and Trafficking in Children, entrusted the Director General of the IIN with developing a joint work proposal within the framework of that initiative, and supported the creation of an observatory in this area;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the website “Our Voice in Colors” (*Nuestra voz a colores*) offers recommendations and information to organizations for adolescents of both sexes to bolster their capacity to protect themselves against different forms of sexual exploitation of children (SEC) and in 2014 will be available to assist in the preparations for the II Pan American Forum of Children, which it is hoped will be a milestone in terms of encouraging adolescent leaders to advance their rights and states to consolidate initiatives for the eradication of all forms of violence;

RECOGNIZING the progress made by the IIN in fulfillment of its mandates in the framework of the implementation of the Action Plan 2011-2015, which has been described in the Institute’s annual reports to the General Assembly and to the Permanent Council in pursuit of

resolutions adopted by the General Assembly; and recognizing also, the annual reports to the Secretary General on the steps taken to combat SEC in the member states, pursuant to the mandate contained in AG/RES. 1667 (XXIX-O/99);

CONSIDERING:

That the sexual exploitation and smuggling of and trafficking in boys, girls, and adolescents of both sexes continues to have a considerable impact on our states and, therefore, that it is necessary to continue implementing effective policies and strategies to combat those criminal acts that take into account their new forms;

The importance of continued progress with national, bilateral, subregional, and regional efforts toward strengthening cooperation in fighting the sexual exploitation and smuggling of and trafficking in boys, girls, and adolescents of both sexes; and

That, in the Charter of the Organization of American States the member states reaffirm the importance of all boys and girls having access to education and the importance of programs that promote enrollment and the retention of the student population in the school system and prevent them from dropping out, and of programs that support boys, girls, and adolescents of both sexes who would otherwise be marginalized, discriminated against, and without access to school programs, including those from indigenous and other minorities, those whose rights have been violated, those with disabilities, working minors, those affected by conflict and/or humanitarian emergencies, and juvenile offenders; which reaffirms the need for SEC prevention and eradication measures to be coordinated within comprehensive rights protection systems;

BEARING IN MIND:

That the IIN has continued to make progress in implementing the Inter-American Cooperation Program for the Prevention and Eradication of the Sexual Exploitation, Smuggling of and Trafficking in Children, which involves three areas of work: (1) gathering and updating information about the topic of SEC in the region and making it available to the States Parties; (2) creating information and knowledge on the topic of SEC to help the States Parties in the design and implementation of their policies and actions intended to deal with this problem; and (3) human resource training and specialized technical assistance for the States Parties; and

That in 2014, the United Nations General Assembly designated July 30 as World Day against Trafficking in Persons, and therefore the Hemisphere echoes that call to strengthen measures to highlight and eradicate this scourge, which particularly affects boys, girls, and adolescents of both sexes; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The XXI Pan American Child Congress, to be held in Brasilia, Brazil in December 2014, with the theme "Violence against Children: 25 Years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child" and including the topic "Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Americas," which will center on the national plans of states in the region and follow up on the recommendations contained in the Rio de Janeiro Declaration and Call for Action of 2008; and

That in the framework of the XXI Pan American Child Congress, the II Pan American Forum of Children will be held with the following objectives: to foster leadership by adolescents in the advancement of their rights and to encourage in states initiatives on eradication of all forms of violence,

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the progress made in consolidating and deepening the three components of the Inter-American Cooperation Program for the Prevention and Eradication of the Sexual Exploitation, Smuggling of and Trafficking in Children in the framework of the Plan of Action 2011-2015 and to welcome the efforts made to improve protection for boys, girls, and adolescents of both sexes against new forms of sexual exploitation in the Hemisphere.

2. To urge the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) to continue developing, with the support of the member states, new approaches to training human resources and strengthening technical capacities for eradicating these forms of human rights violation.

3. To acknowledge the work carried out by the IIN, within the framework of the Inter-American Cooperation Program for the Prevention and Eradication of the Sexual Exploitation, Smuggling of and Trafficking in Children, to redesign and keep permanently updated the ANNAObserve Observatory (www.annaobserva.org) so as to encourage greater interaction and the publication at four-month intervals of Thematic Notes in Spanish and English that enable states to receive periodically updated news in this area, notably on the use of new technologies in these activities.

4. To applaud the IIN's efforts in the area of cooperation with the national commissions against sexual exploitation of the member states of the inter-American system, which have so far resulted in a broad network of technical liaisons in member states of the Organization of American States (OAS); and to urge the IIN to continue promoting and strengthening horizontal cooperation and coordination of efforts among these governmental agencies and within states, as well as encouraging the adoption and application of effective legal standards to prevent and eradicate such criminal acts, while respecting human rights.

5. To support the continuity of the efforts of the IIN with regard to the participation of children and adolescents in matters of public policy, in accordance with the recommendations of the Third World Congress against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents.

6. To request the IIN to continue to disseminate broadly reports and studies on the subject of sexual exploitation of boys, girls, and adolescents of both sexes.

7. To encourage the IIN and member states to continue promoting regional and subregional meetings on Prevention, Protection, and Restoration of the Rights of Children against Commercial Sexual Exploitation, such as those held in Costa Rica (2010), Jamaica (2011), Paraguay (2012), and El Salvador (2013), which led to the publication of the "Best Practices" series.

8. To instruct the Secretary General to continue coordinating the implementation of the Inter-American Cooperation Program for the Prevention and Eradication of the Sexual Exploitation, Smuggling of and Trafficking in Children directly with the IIN, the Secretariat for Multidimensional

Security (SMS), and the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development by encouraging joint work in those areas, where appropriate.

9. To request the IIN and the SMS to continue coordinating actions designed to provide advice to member states, when requested, in their efforts to adopt, amend, implement, and evaluate their domestic regulations to prevent and combat sexual exploitation and smuggling of and trafficking in boys, girls, and adolescents of both sexes, including specific legislation on travel authorizations and improving migration control.

10. To request the IIN to continue reporting to member states on successful experiences and progress in the area, including achievements in caring for victims and fighting crime in local or community contexts.

11. To take note of the permanent work to promote and monitor accession by the states of the inter-American system to international instruments on sexual exploitation and smuggling of and trafficking in minors and to commend Dominica on its accession to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on February 17, 2013, and to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children on May 17, 2013.

12. To encourage member states to consider seeking other means of increasing the funds allocated to the IIN, taking into account the expanded scope of this resolution, and to invite the permanent observers, international financial institutions, regional and subregional organizations, civil society organizations, and other social actors to contribute to financing the Inter-American Cooperation Program for the Prevention and Eradication of the Sexual Exploitation, Smuggling of and Trafficking in Children and the specific fund of the Inter-American Observatory on Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Exploitation and Smuggling of and Trafficking in Minors, as well as the work of the OAS Anti-Trafficking in Persons Coordinator.

13. To urge member states to increase, insofar as possible, the resources allocated to the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of government policies on the sexual exploitation and smuggling of and trafficking in children and adolescents of both sexes, so as to establish and, where appropriate, strengthen programs for comprehensive and inter-disciplinary care with a gender perspective for the victims of these crimes, in particular, those who have contracted HIV/AIDS, and children involved in smuggling, as well as measures to be considered to ensure full respect for their rights.

14. To request the IIN to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2829 (XLIV-O/14)

AGAINST TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN,
OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING the purposes and principles of the American Convention on Human Rights and the Charter of the Organization of American States, generally recognized principles of international law and international humanitarian law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment states that “the term ‘torture’ means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity”;

BEARING IN MIND the provisions of Article 5 (2) of the American Convention on Human Rights, which states, “No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment or treatment. All persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person”;

RECALLING that freedom from torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment is a non-derogable right under international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law, that must be respected and protected in all circumstances, and that Article 2 (2) of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment states that “[n]o exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification of torture”;

REAFFIRMING that the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment is affirmed in relevant international instruments, including the instruments adopted in the framework of the inter-American human rights system, and that legal and procedural safeguards against such acts must not be subject to measures that would circumvent this right;

RECALLING that freedom from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is a non-derogable right under international law that must be respected and protected in all circumstances, including in times of international or internal armed conflict or internal disturbance, or any other public emergency; that the absolute

prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is affirmed in relevant international instruments; and that legal and procedural safeguards against such acts must not be subject to measures that would circumvent this right;

RECALLING ALSO that the prohibition of torture is a peremptory norm of international law and that international, regional, and domestic bodies and courts have recognized the prohibition of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment as customary international law;

RECALLING FURTHER the resolutions on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, in particular, resolution 68/156, adopted by consensus on December 18, 2013, which affirms the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment;

EMPHASIZING the importance of the proper interpretation and implementation by states of their obligations with respect to torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, and the importance that states promote public policies and measures to prevent, prohibit, and punish any form of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and to provide assistance and mentoring for victims of torture, ensuring the full, effective exercise of human rights;

RECALLING that torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment can only be eradicated through a holistic approach that combines, *inter alia*, unequivocal official condemnation of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment in all circumstances; implementation of measures and creation of preventive mechanisms; the existence of procedural safeguards and appropriate practices during arrest, detention, and interrogation; human rights education for law enforcement personnel and other relevant officials; independent, prompt, effective, and impartial investigation of complaints; prosecution and punishment of persons responsible; and full redress to victims;

COMMENDING the persistent efforts of states, national human rights institutions, national preventive mechanisms, and civil society organizations, including nongovernmental organizations, as well as the considerable network of centers for the rehabilitation of victims of torture, to prevent and combat torture and to alleviate the suffering of victims of this practice;

RECALLING the customary adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of a resolution reaffirming the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, and especially the provisions of resolution 68/156, adopted by consensus by the plenary of the United Nations General Assembly on December 18, 2013;

CONCERNED by the commission of any act that constitutes torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment;

OBSERVING that December 10, 2014, marks the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and that September 12, 2015, marks the 30th anniversary of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture; and

REAFFIRMING the commitment of the states of the Hemisphere to eradicate the practice of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment in the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm its condemnation of all forms of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, which are and shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever and can thus never be justified, and to reiterate the need to respect international human rights law, inter-American law, and international humanitarian law.

2. To recall the historic significance in the fight against torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment of the adoption and entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture, and to encourage all states that have not yet done so to become parties, as a matter of priority, to both conventions and to comply strictly with the obligations under said instruments.

3. To reaffirm all the provisions of resolution 68/156, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 18, 2013, particularly the reaffirmation of the absolute and irrevocable prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

4. To condemn any action or attempt by states or their officials to legalize, authorize, or acquiesce in torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment in any circumstances, including on grounds of national security and counter-terrorism or through judicial decisions, and to urge states to ensure accountability of those responsible for such acts.

5. To welcome with satisfaction the establishment of national mechanisms to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment; to urge states to consider establishing, appointing, maintaining, or enhancing independent and effective mechanisms; and to invite those member countries of the Organization of American States that are or that become parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment to fulfill their obligation to designate or establish national preventive mechanisms that are truly independent, properly resourced, and effective.

6. To encourage OAS member states to develop and/or strengthen their policies and laws on prevention, prohibition, and punishment of any form of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, as well as to provide assistance and mentoring for victims of torture, ensuring the full, effective exercise of human rights enshrined in international human rights law, inter-American law, and international humanitarian law.

7. To also call upon all states to adopt a gender-sensitive approach in the fight against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, paying special attention to gender-based violence.

8. To remind all states that prolonged incommunicado detention or detention in secret places can facilitate the perpetration of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and can in itself constitute a form of such treatment; and to urge all

states to respect the safeguards concerning the liberty, security, and dignity of the person and to ensure that secret places of detention and interrogation are abolished.

9. To welcome the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in the prevention and punishment of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

10. To recall in particular the “Principles and Best Practices on the Protection of Persons Deprived of Liberty in the Americas” and the “Report on the Human Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty in the Americas,” both adopted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

11. To emphasize the importance of states ensuring good-faith follow-up to the recommendations and judgments of the organs of the inter-American human rights system, as well as the recommendations and conclusions of the relevant treaty bodies and mechanisms of the United Nations; and to recognize the important role of national human rights institutions and other relevant national or regional bodies in preventing torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

12. To recall the “Principles on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment” (Istanbul Principles) as a valuable tool in efforts to prevent and combat torture, and to urge states to strengthen procedures for medical and legal documentation of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

13. To stress that national legal systems must ensure that victims of torture or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment have effective access to justice and obtain redress without suffering any retribution for bringing complaints or giving evidence.

14. To emphasize that conditions of detention must respect the dignity and human rights of detainees; to encourage states to take effective measures to address overcrowding in detention facilities, including through enhancing the use of alternatives to pretrial detention and custodial sentences and reducing pretrial detention, *inter alia*, by adopting and effectively implementing both new and existing legislative and administrative measures and policies on its preconditions, limitations, duration, and alternatives; by taking measures aimed at the implementation of existing legislation; and by ensuring access to justice and legal advice and assistance; and to invite states to make use of appropriate international technical assistance in order to strengthen national capacities and infrastructure in this regard.

15. To call upon all states, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and other organs and agencies of the Organization of American States, as well as relevant intergovernmental and civil society organizations, including nongovernmental organizations, to carry out activities to commemorate the adoption of the international conventions on torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, with a view to observing the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture, on September 12, 2015.

AG/RES. 2830 (XLIV-O/14)

NETWORK FOR CONSUMER SAFETY AND HEALTH AND INTER-AMERICAN RAPID
PRODUCT-SAFETY WARNING SYSTEM

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING that resolutions AG/RES. 2494 (XXXIX-O/09), AG/RES. 2549 (XL-O/10), AG/RES. 2682 (XLI-O/11), and AG/RES. 2712 (XLII-O/12), mandated the creation of the Network for Consumer Safety and Health (RCSS) in the Americas, as a first step toward implementation of the Inter-American Rapid Product-Safety Warning System (IAPSWs);

CONSIDERING:

That resolution AG/RES. 2769 (XLIII-O/13), “Network for Consumer Safety and Health and Inter-American Rapid Product-Safety Warning System,” reiterated the importance of continuing to strengthen the issue at the national and hemispheric level, to which end it evolved an institutional strengthening strategy for the RCSS in the framework of the OAS, and therefore requested the General Secretariat, in consultation with the stakeholders, to present the Permanent Council with a proposed structure to guide the work of the RCSS, and instructed the General Secretariat to prepare, in conjunction with the member states, a medium- and long-term planning proposal for the activities of the RCSS;

That, as a consequence of these mandates, the governmental agencies with responsibility for consumer-good safety in the member states that are part of the RCSS held, thanks to the generous offer of the Government of Peru, a meeting of the Technical Advisory Group of the RCSS in Lima, in November 2013, at which they established an interim management committee to direct the work of the RCSS and a working group on the IAPSWs to develop a strategy for implementing the System;

That the Interim Management Committee of the RCSS, composed of Peru (Chair), Brazil, Chile, United States, and Suriname, assumed responsibility for drafting a document containing a proposed structure to guide the work of the RCSS with support from the General Secretariat and Pan American Health Organization, and made progress on a first draft of a medium- and long-term plan that it will submit to the to-be-created organs of the RCSS for consideration and approval; and

That the Working Group on the IAPSWs, comprising Brazil (Chair), El Salvador, Peru, Dominican Republic, and Suriname, developed an initial proposal for the design of the IAPSWs that will guide the first stage of its implementation; and

CONVINCED:

That an institutionally robust RCSS governed by the member states with technical assistance from the General Secretariat will help to establish consumer-good safety as a permanent priority in the area of consumer rights and protection of fair competition, given that it is the only regional forum

for exchange and coordination of experiences, actions, techniques, and policies designed to ensure that consumer goods do not pose a risk to the health and safety of consumers; and

That the creation of the IAPSWs will help to protect consumers through rapid detection and coordinated action to prevent unsafe consumer goods entering markets in the Americas and will be conducive to a broad hemispheric dialogue for the introduction of transparent, uniform, and steadfast criteria to identify, evaluate, and appraise consumer-good risks, as well as for the multidisciplinary adoption of prompt and effective measures at the national and international level to minimize the possibility of such risks resulting in harm to persons or their property,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the attached “Structure to Guide the Work of the Network for Consumer Safety and Health” (Annex 1) prepared at the initiative of the Interim Management Committee of the Network for Consumer Safety and Health (RCSS) with support from the General Secretariat.

2. To thank the governments that have made voluntary financial and in-kind contributions to strengthen the RCSS.

3. To congratulate the General Secretariat on the implementation of specialized programs on institutional strengthening and exchange of experiences that, through specialized training, publications, and meetings of authorities organized by the Secretariat for Legal Affairs in partnership with the Pan American Health Organization, have positioned the OAS as a pacesetter on this topic; and, in addition, to note with satisfaction the design and creation of the RCSS web page.

4. To welcome the proposal for implementation of the Inter-American Rapid Product-Safety Warning System (IAPSWs) prepared by the Working Group on the IAPSWs and to invite all member states to participate actively in the process of designing and implementing the IAPSWs at the hemispheric and national levels.

5. To request the General Secretariat to continue providing assistance to both to government agencies in designing the substantive and technological aspects of the System and to member states on consumer protection matters, particularly where product safety is concerned, and to serve as technical secretariat of the organs of the RCSS that will be established pursuant to the attached RCSS structure document.

6. To request the General Secretariat to continue encouraging the implementation at the national level of public programs and policies on consumer safety and of agreements with subregional agencies and associated countries and agencies from other regions, in order to promote the RCSS and facilitate the effective creation of the IAPSWs, while avoiding duplicate efforts.

7. To invite those member states that do not yet belong to the RCSS to join it and participate actively in the training activities, exchange of experiences, and planning of the IAPSWs; and to invite member states, permanent observers, and other donors to contribute, to the extent possible, to the Consumer Safety and Health Fund managed by the General Secretariat, in order to finance institutional strengthening activities, exchange of experiences, and the design of the IAPSWs.

8. To instruct the General Secretariat to report on the implementation of the mandates related to this resolution to the Permanent Council prior to the forty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.



Organization of
American States

ANNEX



Original: Spanish

Structure to Guide the Work of the Network for Consumer Safety and Health

In resolution AG/RES. 2769 (XLIII-O/13) the General Secretariat was requested “in consultation with the stakeholders, to present the Permanent Council with a proposed structure to guide the work of the RCSS.” The following proposal is the outcome of those consultations.

1. Description of the Network for Consumer Safety and Health
 - a. The Network for Consumer Safety and Health (RCSS) is the interdisciplinary inter-American forum specialized in promoting consumer protection at the national and hemispheric levels through the exchange of information on consumer product safety and dissemination of best practices on public policy on consumer products and their regulation. The main activities of the RCSS are as follows:
 - i. Collection, classification, and publication of product-safety alerts and of other actions, such as product recalls, taken by RCSS members and by competent agencies in major markets that already have rapid alert systems for unsafe products.
 - ii. Design and management of an integrated Inter-American Rapid Product-Safety Warning System (IAPSWs), including the harmonization of consumer product safety concepts and methodologies among the region’s governmental agencies.
 - iii. Creation of synergies between the RCSS and regional and international forums that specialize in product safety.
 - iv. Establishment of a forum for promoting capacity-building, dissemination of regulatory best practices, and technical information exchange, through training for the staff of consumer-protection, health, and metrology authorities in the region.
 - b. The RCSS responds to the mandates and guidelines established by the General Assembly. It is accountable to the appropriate political bodies of the Organization of American States (OAS). as far as the intersectoral nature of the RCSS is concerned, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), as the specialized health agency of the inter-American system, acts in partnership with the OAS, providing technical assistance and helping to continue raising the awareness of health authorities, their health regulatory agencies, and other relevant entities (observatories and service networks) to encourage them to participate actively in the RCSS at the regional and member-state levels. In particular, PAHO will help strengthen The RCSS from the

perspective of the consumption or use of unsafe products as a social determinant of health.

- c. RCSS activities will be carried out based on funds allocated to it by participants and other donors, and with the support of the OAS General Secretariat through the Technical Secretariat.
 - d. Participants in the RCSS: RCSS activities shall be open to government agencies of the OAS member states with competence in consumer protection, consumer product safety monitoring, and the impact of consumption on health and well-being. This includes but is not necessarily limited to government consumer protection agencies, government public-health agencies, health surveillance agencies, metrology institutes, standardization institutes, and customs administrations.
 - e. Partner Institutions: Governmental or nongovernmental institutions with objectives similar to and compatible with those of the RCSS may ask to participate in RCSS activities, by means of a note sent to the Management Committee through the Technical Secretariat. The admission process is described in Article 3, section A, paragraph d, of this document. Partner institutions are not entitled to vote.
2. Representation by country and vote
- a. Each member state of the OAS shall appoint a representative authority to act as its representative on the RCSS. The Technical Secretariat shall be notified of the appointment through the permanent mission of each OAS country.
 - b. Each member state shall be entitled to one vote; this right shall be exercised by the representative authority, or by the representative authority's designee, on behalf of the agencies participating in the RCSS in the respective country.
 - c. The representative authority shall also have the following responsibilities:
 - i. To articulate and coordinate the country's position with the various national participating agencies with regard to decision making within the RCSS, including coordination of a common position for voting.
 - ii. To represent the country in the organs of the RCSS and during RCSS activities and meetings. All national agencies competent in the matter may participate in each and every RCSS activity.
 - iii. To serving as a point of contact in all communications with the country, including the dispatch and receipt of information and requests and other types of cooperation activities, without prejudice to using the OAS's own channels of communication.
 - iv. To ensure that its permanent mission to the OAS is duly informed of activities carried out within the framework of the OAS.
 - v. To designate a proxy for voting purposes prior to the vote, as necessary, by means of a communication to the Management Committee and the Technical Secretariat sent through its permanent mission to the OAS.

- d. Decisions of the Plenary and the Management Committee shall be adopted by consensus. If a consensus cannot be reached, decisions shall be adopted by a simple majority of votes of the members present, provided that a quorum for adopting decisions exists.

3. Structure

The organs of the RCSS are the Plenary, the Management Committee, and the Technical Secretariat.

A) Plenary

- a. The Plenary is the supreme authority of the RCSS. Participation in the meetings of the Plenary shall be open to all competent national agencies.
- b. The Plenary shall hold an annual regular meeting to discuss and approve the principal lines of action of the RCSS for the following year. In the event of matters that require urgent consideration and have reasonable relevance to the RCSS program of action, the Management Committee may convene special meetings of the Plenary and call for electronic voting by its members on specific topics that so warrant.
- c. The quorum for meetings of the Plenary and for the adoption of decisions shall be one third of the representative authorities of the member states.
- d. The functions of the Plenary include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - i. To consider and adopt the annual plan of action of the RCSS and progress reports of the Management Committee and the Technical Secretariat, as well as everything related to the design, implementation, and sustainability of the IAPSWs.
 - ii. To receive reports on resource allocation and establish priorities regarding expenditures and financial resource management.
 - iii. To design strategies to ensure the financial sustainability of the RCSS and the IAPSWs and agree on any requests for financial support transmitted to the member states and other potential donors for those purposes.
 - iv. To approve the venue for the annual regular meeting of the Plenary and elect officers, as set forth in this document.
 - v. To adopt action guidelines and operating regulations of the IAPSWs drawn up by the Technical Secretariat in accordance with the guidelines set by the RCSS participants.
 - vi. To establish working groups to carry out specific tasks on topics of common interest. Experts from member states or other organizations with recognized experience in the area of consumer product safety and/or consumer health protection may participate in the working groups.

- vii. To consider requests from organizations for admission as RCSS partner institutions. Said requests shall be adopted by consensus or, in the absence thereof, by a majority of the countries present. If deemed necessary, the Plenary may adopt a rule to govern the admission of partner institutions and their participation in the RCSS.
- e. The organization of the annual regular meeting shall be the responsibility of the country hosting it, with support from the outgoing Chair and the Technical Secretariat.
- f. The Plenary and other RCSS bodies shall endeavor to hold virtual meetings whenever possible, as a cost-reducing measure.

B) Management Committee

- a. The Management Committee is the body elected to exercise permanent leadership over the RCSS. The Management Committee shall be open to participation by all member states and shall consist of a chair, two vice chairs, and two member delegates, and it shall be endeavored to reflect and respect the principle of equitable geographic representation.
- b. The Management Committee shall at all times ensure that its decisions and activities are consistent with the policies of the Permanent Council.
- c. The quorum for meetings and for the adoption of decisions of the Management Committee and the working groups shall be a majority of the representative authorities of the member states of which they are comprised. Once the working groups or special committees have been established and opened to all RCSS participants, the Management Committee or the working group, as appropriate, may establish the quorum required for meetings and the adoption of decisions.
- d. The functions of the Management Committee are the following:
 - i. To ensure effective implementation of the RCSS Work Plan.
 - ii. To represent the RCSS in the coordination of actions, establishment of partnerships, and generation of synergies with other organizations, forums, or regions that work on the matter.
 - iii. To provide guidance to the Technical Secretariat in the performance of its functions and monitor the progress of initiatives undertaken by the RCSS and its work plan.
 - iv. To carry out fundraising activities to ensure the sustainability of the RCSS and the IAPSWs.
 - v. To coordinate necessary measures for the design, implementation, effective operations, and sustainability of the IAPSWs.
 - vi. To promote the appointment of coordinators of working group and monitor their activities.

- vii. To facilitate the consideration of relevant initiatives for approval by the Plenary on such topics as procedures and changes in procedures, new activities, and periodic reports.
 - viii. At the end of the Chair's term, the Chair shall submit to the Plenary at its regular meeting a progress report on the topics that were considered during said term and on other pending matters.
- e. The member states shall submit their candidacies for Chair at the annual regular meeting of the Plenary. The candidacies shall be for the period that begins with the opening of the following regular meeting of the Plenary. The election shall be held after the submission of candidacies. In the event there are various candidates for the same position, the decision shall be taken by a majority of the votes of member states present at the meeting.
- f. The Chair and the two vice chairs shall exercise their functions from the start of the corresponding annual regular meeting until the start of the following year's annual regular meeting.
- g. The Management Committee shall have two vice chairs. The position of first Vice Chair shall be held by the member state that served as Chair in the previous term. The position of second Vice Chair shall be held by the member state elected to serve as Chair for the following term. The vice chairs shall support the Chair in his or her functions and shall replace the Chair in the event that he or she is unable to exercise his or her functions, as determined by the Management Committee itself. The remaining members of the Management Committee shall be elected at the regular meeting of the Plenary and shall remain in office from the time of their election until the next annual regular meeting of the Plenary.
- h. The functions of the Chair are the following:
 - i. To preside over and moderate the meetings of the Plenary; establish orders of business; open and close meetings; direct discussions; offer the floor to delegations in the order in which they request it; put matters to the vote and announce the results; rule on points of order; and ensure compliance with the provisions of this document.
 - ii. To convene meetings of the Management Committee.
 - iii. To act as representative of the RCSS and the Management Committee and seek the prior consensus of their members for carrying out the tasks of the Management Committee.
 - iv. To perform such functions as the Plenary or the Management Committee may assign to it.
- i. The Management Committee shall meet as often as necessary, as considered appropriate and agreed to by its members.

- j. Only member states that have appointed a representative authority in accordance with the procedures set forth in Article 2 may submit candidacies for the positions of chair, vice chair, or member of the Management Committee of the RCSS.
- C) *Technical Secretariat*
 - a. The functions of Technical Secretariat shall be exercised by the General Secretariat of the OAS (GS/OAS), which shall act in partnership with PAHO. The GS/OAS shall appoint OAS personnel to perform the tasks incumbent on the Technical Secretariat of the RCSS, and PAHO shall do likewise.
 - b. The Technical Secretariat shall remain in constant contact and act under the supervision of the Management Committee, in keeping with the priorities established in the work plan approved by the Plenary.
- 4. Meetings
 - A) *Order of business and distribution of meeting documents*
 - a. To facilitate meetings of the Plenary, the Chair of the Management Committee, in collaboration with the Technical Secretariat, shall:
 - i. Transmit the meeting schedule to all member states.
 - ii. Prepare the preliminary order of business for each meeting and submit it to the other members of the Management Committee for consideration at least 60 days in advance. The members of the Management Committee shall have 10 days to present their observations to the Chair, who, on the basis thereof, shall prepare the draft order of business for the meeting.
 - iii. Distribute the final draft order of business and the corresponding technical documents for the meeting to all members of the RCSS at least 30 days prior to the meeting.
 - iv. Provide all member states with the final draft order of business two weeks prior to the meeting.
 - v. Distribute all RCSS proposals or drafts enjoying consensus to all member states at least one week prior to the meeting in which they will be discussed.
 - B) *Transmittal of the notice of convocation and procedural matters*
 - a. On behalf of the Chair, the Technical Secretariat shall transmit the notice of convocation to the Management Committee and the Plenary, as appropriate. The notice of convocation may be sent by electronic mail or by any other written means.
 - b. For meetings of the Plenary, the Technical Secretariat shall transmit a copy of the notice of convocation to the permanent missions of the member states for their information.
 - c. Subject to prior notification by the Chair, the Management Committee may hold teleconference or videoconference meetings. These meetings must meet the

requirements for a quorum and other relevant formalities described in the present document. In the event that a virtual vote is held, it may only take place with the representative authorities present.

- d. Decisions adopted during virtual meetings shall have the same validity as those adopted at in-person meetings.
- e. Procedural matters not covered in the present document shall be resolved in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Permanent Council.

5. Other Provisions

- a. The contents of the present document on structure and the rules of procedure established herein shall be interpreted so as not to conflict with the provisions of the OAS Charter or the regulations, practices, or procedures of the OAS.
- b. The Chair for the first term and the following term shall be elected at the first meeting of the Plenary, as will the other two members of the Management Committee. The country that occupied the interim Chair prior to the first meeting of the Plenary shall remain as first Vice Chair.

AG/RES. 2831 (XLIV-O/14)

PROMOTION OF WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND
GENDER EQUITY AND EQUALITY AND STRENGTHENING OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECOGNIZING the importance that the Organization of American States (OAS) has ascribed to women's human rights, gender equity and equality, and strengthening the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) in order to support their full realization;

CONCERNED that, despite progress in terms of promotion and formal recognition of women's human rights in the region, many women are still unable to exercise those rights on an equal basis with men, without discrimination or violence;

HAVING SEEN:

The Declaration of San José on the Economic and Political Empowerment of the Women of the Americas [CIM/DEC. 14 (XXXVI-O/12) rev. 1] and the Triennial Program of Work 2013-2015 of the CIM, adopted by the Thirty-sixth Assembly of Delegates of the CIM in San José, Costa Rica, on October 29 and 30, 2012;

Resolution AG/RES. 2770 (XLIII-O/13) and all the earlier resolutions on this matter, which take note of the outcomes of the steps taken to follow up on implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP) by the organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS;

Resolution AG/RES. 2710 (XLII-O/12) and all the earlier resolutions on this matter, which encourage member states and the OAS General Secretariat to strengthen the CIM, allocating it the necessary personnel and resources to carry out its mandates and including its projects and programs in the list of priorities presented with a view to raising funds from external donors;

The "Report of the Secretary General on the Implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality pursuant to Resolution AG/RES. 2770 (XLIII-O/13) to the Forty-fourth Regular Session of the General Assembly" (CP/doc.4959/14); and

The Annual Report of the CIM, in which the President of the CIM presented to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth regular session (CP/doc.4958/14) the progress made by the CIM in implementing its 2011-2016 Strategic Plan;

RECALLING that, through the adoption of the IAP by resolution AG/RES. 1732 (XXX-O/00), the governments of the Hemisphere committed to developing decisive strategies to promote

women's human rights and to integrating a gender perspective in all spheres of public life in order to attain equality of rights and opportunities between women and men; and

CONSIDERING that, despite the progress made by the CIM in consolidating a hemispheric work program to advance women's human rights and gender equality in the areas of democracy, human rights, development, and security, the human and financial resources allocated to the CIM remain insufficient for it to carry out all its mandates effectively,

RESOLVES:

1. To continue to support the work of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), as the principal forum for generating hemispheric policy on women's human rights and gender equity and equality and for following up on the goals set in the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP), particularly with respect to gender equity and equality mainstreaming at ministerial meetings convened by the Organization of American States (OAS), at OAS General Assembly sessions, and in the follow-up on the mandates of the Summits of the Americas.

2. To support the CIM in addressing new and emerging areas relevant to achieving the full exercise of women's rights, within available financial resources, and to request the Executive Secretariat of the CIM to submit periodic reports to the Permanent Council of the OAS and its respective organs on specific and relevant aspects of the situation of women in the Americas.

3. To encourage member states to:

- a. Harmonize their laws with those set down in international treaties and conventions to which they are party, particularly the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará," as appropriate, in order to advance the full exercise of women's rights and the attainment of gender equality;
- b. Continue their efforts to ensure that, where they already exist, such laws are enforced and such public policies fully implemented and monitored; and
- c. Support the CIM in the full realization of the goals of the IAP, allocating it financial, human, and in-kind resources.

4. To urge the Secretary General to:

- a. Continue, with support from the CIM, promoting and working on full implementation of the IAP so as to mainstream a perspective of women's human rights and gender equity and equality in all OAS programs, activities, and policies;

- b. Promote the integration of a perspective of women's human rights and gender equity and equality in the annual operational goals of the departments, units, and offices of the OAS;
- c. Promote the inclusion of women's human rights and a gender equity and equality perspective in reports published by the OAS;
- d. Promote the identification of mechanisms for reinforcing the work carried out with civil society organizations and other social actors dedicated to gender issues and the protection of women's rights, in accordance with Permanent Council resolution [CP/RES. 759 \(1217/99\)](#);
- e. Provide the CIM, as a specialized agency of the OAS, with sufficient human and financial resources to enhance its capacity to carry out its mandates, particularly those recognized as priorities by member states; and
- f. In fundraising for specific projects, include activities and programs intended to promote the full exercise of women's human rights and strengthen the role of the CIM as the hemispheric political forum for women's rights and gender equality, and increase the visibility of the work of the CIM and of these projects among potential donors.

5. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2832 (XLIV-O/14)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION,
PUNISHMENT, AND ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN,
“CONVENTION OF BELÉM DO PARÁ”

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Resolutions AG/RES. 2162 (XXXVI-O/06), AG/RES. 2330 (XXXVII-O/07), AG/RES. 2371 (XXXVIII-O/08), AG/RES. 2451 (XXXIX-O/09), AG/RES. 2544 (XL-O/10), AG/RES. 2692 (XLI-O/11), AG/RES. 2711 (XLII-O/12), and AG/RES. 2803 (XLIII-O/13) on implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, “Convention of Belém do Pará”;

The “Report on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women ‘Convention of Belém do Pará’ pursuant to Resolution AG/RES. 2803 (XLIII-O/13) to the Forty-fourth Regular Session of the General Assembly” (CP/doc.4960/14) and the progress made by Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (MESECVI);

RECALLING that the Convention of Belém do Pará is the first binding international legal instrument on violence against women, whereby the States Parties undertake to act with due diligence to prevent, investigate, and punish violence against women, whether in the public or the private sphere;

REITERATING that the Conference of States Parties to the Convention has identified access to justice by women victims of violence as one of the main challenges facing the region and as one of its thematic priorities previously agreed to by the Conference of States Parties to the Convention^{1/}

CONSIDERING that the country and hemispheric reports prepared during multilateral evaluation rounds are an important reference point for tracking progress in the prevention, punishment, eradication, and treatment of violence against women and allow for the identification of challenges for future action;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION:

The adoption by the Committee of Experts (CEVI) of the “Progress Indicators for Measuring the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, ‘Belém do Para Convention’” (MESECVI/CEVI/

1. Minutes of the Third Conference of States Parties to the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI-III/doc.59/11 rev. 3, Guideline No.4), <http://www.oas.org/en/mesecvi/docs/CEP3-Act-EN.doc>.

doc.188/13 rev. 1) with the objective of enhancing the evaluation and monitoring of States Parties by the MESECVI to promote the effective exercise of women's right to a life free from violence under the Convention of Belém do Pará;

The assistance rendered by the MESECVI in the adoption and implementation by the Council of Europe of the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention); and

The signing of the Convention of Belém do Pará by the Government of Italy and the interest expressed by other permanent observers to the Organization of American States (OAS) in acceding to the Convention;

CONSIDERING that this year marks 20 years since the adoption of the Convention of Belém do Pará by the General Assembly OAS and that this historic moment warrants broad reflection on the impact of the Convention for States Parties and the work of the States Parties in implementing it;

CONCERNED by the scarcity of human and financial resources provided for the operations of the MESECVI, which undermines its capacity to effectively fulfill its mandate and to act as a hemispheric benchmark for the prevention and punishment of violence against women; and

REAFFIRMING the need to foster mechanisms for cooperation and the exchange of information and best practices on prevention of violence against women among States Parties to the Convention, non states parties, permanent observers to the OAS, and other entities that address the issue at the subregional, regional, and international levels,

RESOLVES:

1. To encourage member states that have not already done so to give prompt consideration to ratifying or, as appropriate, acceding to the Convention of Belém do Pará, or participating as observers in the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (MESECVI), in accordance with Article 4.1 of the MESECVI Statute, and to take steps to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women.

2. To encourage the States Parties to the Convention to:

- a. implement the recommendations of the MESECVI to promote full compliance with the Convention of Belém do Pará;
- b. foster coordination between bodies responsible for implementing public policy on prevention, punishment, and assistance in cases of violence against women, and civil society organizations involved in the issue at the national, regional, and international levels;
- c. promote, through technical cooperation with national machineries for the advancement of women and other government bodies, the adoption of

protocols to guarantee that women victims of violence have access to justice;^{2/}

- d. make voluntary contributions to the MESECVI fund in order to provide the Mechanism with the necessary human and financial resources to ensure its full, stable, and effective operation;
 - e. establish or support mechanisms that facilitate technical assistance and cooperation at the national, regional, and international levels for the exchange of information, experiences, and best practices in implementing the Convention, in keeping with Articles 1.1.c and 10.4 of the MESECVI Statute;
 - f. designate their Competent National Authorities and Experts to the Mechanism if they have not already done so; and
 - g. support the participation of their Competent National Authorities and Experts in the MESECVI process in order to ensure its continuous and effective operation.
3. To request that the Secretary General:
- a. within available resources, give priority to allocating the necessary human, technical, and financial resources for the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) to optimize its work as Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI; and
 - b. encourage awareness and the use of the results of the work of the MESECVI, particularly its hemispheric reports, at the national and international levels to strengthen the MESECVI's role as a hemispheric authority on eradication of violence against women.
4. To request the Technical Secretariat of the MESECVI to:
- a. identify new and emerging areas to be included in the draft questionnaire for the evaluation rounds of the MESECVI, in accordance with Article 7.b of the Rules of Procedure of the CEVI and within available financial resources;
 - b. advise the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) and its respective organs on specific and relevant aspects of the situation of violence against women in the States Parties; and
 - c. continue promoting cooperation and the exchange of best experiences and information between the MESECVI and other entities that address violence against women at the subregional, regional, and international levels.

2. The States of Guatemala and Ecuador declare that, pursuant to their national legislation, they recognize the right to life from the moment of conception.

5. To thank the Governments of Argentina, France, Mexico, Nicaragua, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago for their contributions to the MESECVI fund in 2013.

6. To request the Secretary General to report, through the Permanent Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2833 (XLIV-O/14)

INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE FOR EFFECTIVELY DEALING WITH SOCIAL CONFLICTS
IN INVESTMENTS FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

REAFFIRMING the provisions and the essential purposes and principles identified in the Charter of the Organization of American States;

MINDFUL that Article 34 of the Charter of the Organization of American States establishes that “[t]he Member States agree that equality of opportunity, the elimination of extreme poverty, equitable distribution of wealth and income and the full participation of their peoples in decisions relating to their own development are, among others, basic objectives of integral development”;

RECALLING Article 6 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which establishes that “[i]t is the right and responsibility of all citizens to participate in decisions relating to their own development. This is also a necessary condition for the full and effective exercise of democracy. Promoting and fostering diverse forms of participation strengthens democracy”;

REAFFIRMING, as recognized in Article 11 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, that democracy and social and economic development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT Article 34 of the Social Charter of the Americas, which establishes that “[m]ember states will foster conscious and creative public participation in their development process. No individual or nation should be denied the opportunity to benefit from development”;

RECALLING Convention 169 of the International Labour Organization concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, as well as the progress made in negotiating, within the OAS, the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

AFFIRMING ITS CONVICTION that a peaceful and constructive approach to social conflicts associated with investment projects, from a rights-based perspective and through dialogue and other peaceful means for the prevention and alternative resolution of conflicts, contributes to democratic governance and integral development;

RECOGNIZING the efforts of member states to promote and strengthen their capacities to resolve peacefully social conflicts associated with investment projects through the creation of regulatory frameworks for dealing with them, as well as of new institutional approaches and working methodologies, aimed at fostering inclusive dialogue allowing our peoples to take advantage of the integral development opportunities afforded by public and private investments; and

RECOGNIZING ALSO the work of the General Secretariat in support of said member state initiatives, including the creation of forums for the exchange of experiences, such as the Meeting of Government Experts on the Management of Socio-Environmental Conflict in Central America and the Andean Region, organized by the Organization of American States (OAS) in Lima, Peru, on December 6 and 7, 2012, and the offering of courses to public officials at the subregional and national levels on conflict prevention and management,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue, upon request, to support member states in developing institutional capacities for dealing with social conflicts associated with investment projects, in the interests of integral development, of the eradication of poverty, particularly extreme poverty, and of equality, equity, and social inclusion.

2. To request the General Secretariat to:

- a. promote opportunities for horizontal cooperation among member states for the exchange of information, experiences, and lessons learned in the prevention and management of social conflicts associated with investment projects, in the interests of integral development;
- b. promote and facilitate the operation of networks of public officials, experts, and academics on the prevention and management of conflicts associated with investment projects in the interests of integral development, and make them available to the member states; and
- c. facilitate opportunities for reflection and analysis through regional, subregional, and national forums to share information and exchange experiences on the promotion of inclusive dialogue and the effective management of social conflicts associated with investment projects in the interests of integral development.

3. To request the General Secretariat to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2834 (XLIV-O/14)

TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION OF A
STRATEGY ON YOUTH FOR THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING:

That the member states adopted the Declaration of Medellín “Youth and Democratic Values” at the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) on June 3, 2008, in which they committed to promote among the youth of the Americas the values, principles, and practices for life in a democratic society contained in the Inter-American Democratic Charter and the Charter of the Organization of American States, so as to strengthen their political, social, and economic participation in the framework of a democratic society;

That in the Declaration of Medellín, the member states requested that the General Secretariat, *inter alia*, mainstream the youth perspective into the programs and activities of the OAS; contribute to the consolidation of a hemispheric vision for policies and programs designed to secure and promote young people’s rights and thereby strengthen participation in the design and execution of public policies and national programs that would allow the full integration and social cohesion of young people; and support the exchange of best practices in the Hemisphere in research into problems affecting youth and their possible solutions, with the participation of institutions working in this field; and

That, as is mentioned in the Strategy on Youth of the OAS General Secretariat, which was developed based on the mandates set forth in the Declaration of Medellín with the aim of promoting youth development through a multisectoral and participatory approach, “[t]oday youth are and will continue to be until 2015 the most significant population segment within this continent; thus, it is fundamental to consider them as key actors in the design and implementation of efforts aimed at surpassing the different hindrances faced by democracies in the hemisphere”;

RECOGNIZING:

That resolution AG/RES. 2553 (XL-O/10) “Towards the Establishment of Priorities on the Youth of the Americas,” the member states resolved to continue to attach a high priority to youth development in the Americas and to take all necessary steps to mainstream the youth perspective into the programs and activities of the OAS;

That the “Report to the Permanent Council and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development in follow-up to AG/RES. 2553 (XL-O/10) ‘Towards the Establishment of Priorities on the Youth of the Americas’” (CEPCIDI/doc.980/11) states that “for the OAS to succeed in its goal of strengthening the peace and security of the continent and promoting, by cooperative action, OAS member states’ economic, social and cultural

development, it is fundamental that the Organization consider, as a priority in itself, the economic, social and cultural development of its more than 136 million youth”;

That youth are entitled to participate actively and fully in political, economic, social, and cultural matters in their countries; and

That youth should be encouraged and enabled to the fullest extent possible to participate actively and fully in political, economic, social, cultural, and sporting matters in their countries;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That investment in social programs that will allow the development of policies, plans, and projects for youth, with particular attention given to priority areas and common goals, such as education, employment, health, housing, sustainable development, eradication of violence, quality and coverage of social services, quality of leisure time, eradication of poverty—particularly extreme poverty, gender equality, and nondiscrimination, is an ongoing challenge; and

That the Inter-American Children’s Institute, as a specialized agency of the OAS, is committed to promotion, protection, and observance of the rights of children and adolescents in the region; and

BEARING IN MIND Article 3 of the Social Charter of the Americas, by which member states committed to combating the serious problems of poverty, social exclusion, and inequity and to addressing their underlying causes and their consequences; to creating favorable conditions for achieving development with social justice for their peoples; and to strengthening and fostering policies and programs directed towards the achievement of societies that offer all people opportunities to benefit from sustainable development with equity and social inclusion,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the General Secretariat to review and update the Strategy on Youth of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) and to present the result to the Permanent Council and the General Committee for review and consideration for its adoption, so as to consolidate a comprehensive vision of that strategy that might contribute to the social, economic, and political development of youth in the Americas. Within that Strategy, to request the General Secretariat to generate opportunities for cooperation and exchange of practices among states, youth, and other actors and agencies, in order to strengthen public policies on youth and youth organization and participation practices.

2. To request the General Secretariat, in consultation with different actors and agencies—including governmental institutions—that participate in the development of policies, programs, and initiatives concerning youth in OAS member states, to draw up a 2015-2020 implementation plan for the OAS Strategy on Youth and present the result to the Permanent Council and General Committee for review and consideration with a view to approval. The plan should identify the estimated costs and sources of funding for proposed actions, actions to monitor the implementation of the strategy, and provide for an independent evaluation of the strategy’s implementation.

3. To request the General Secretariat to mainstream youth issues as a crosscutting theme of the Organization's programs and activities.

4. To call on the member states to consider the presentation to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session of a draft resolution declaring 2016 Inter-American Year of Youth. Marking this year will help to raise awareness of the updated Strategy on Youth, highlight the efforts of member states in this field, and advance the discussion and implementation of the priorities to be defined in the Strategy's implementation plan.

5. To consider developing policies, programs, and initiatives, where relevant, to ensure the advancement of youth in the Americas; collaboration and integration among institutions and organizations involved with the issue; and promote the active participation of young people in the social, political, economic, and cultural development of their countries.

6. To continue to support, where relevant and in keeping with national priorities, the strengthening of programs, projects, and actions with a direct impact on youth.

7. To recognize the efforts of the General Secretariat, through the Office of the Assistant Secretary General, to promote coordination and collaboration among the various areas of the OAS that implement programs, projects, and initiatives for youth.

8. To request the General Secretariat to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2835 (XLIV-O/14)

PROMOTION AND STRENGTHENING OF DEMOCRACY: FOLLOW-UP
TO THE INTER-AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC CHARTER

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

REAFFIRMING the provisions and essential purposes and principles identified in the Charter of the Organization of American States;

SHARING the conviction expressed in the Declaration of the Latin American and Caribbean Unity Summit that democracy is one of our region's most valued conquests and that the peaceful transmission of power through constitutional means and in strict compliance with the constitutional rules of each of our states is the product of a continuous and irreversible process in which the region admits no interruptions or setbacks;

AWARE that the Charter of the Organization of American States establishes in its preamble "that representative democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability, peace and development of the region" and that one of the essential purposes of the Organization is "[t]o promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of nonintervention";

AWARE ALSO that the Charter of the Organization of American States establishes that "[e]very State has the right to choose, without external interference, its political, economic, and social system and to organize itself in the way best suited to it, and has the duty to abstain from intervening in the affairs of another State. Subject to the foregoing, the American States shall cooperate fully among themselves, independently of the nature of their political, economic, and social systems";

RECALLING that the Inter-American Democratic Charter states that "the peoples of the Americas have a right to democracy and their governments have an obligation to promote and defend it" and that "democracy is essential for the social, political, and economic development of the peoples of the Americas";

RECALLING ALSO that the Inter-American Democratic Charter reaffirms that the promotion and protection of human rights is a basic prerequisite for the existence of a democratic society and recognizes the importance of the continuous development and strengthening of the inter-American human rights system for the consolidation of democracy;

AWARE ALSO that Article 34 of the Charter of the Organization of American States establishes that "[t]he Member States agree that equality of opportunity, the elimination of extreme poverty, equitable distribution of wealth and income and the full participation of their peoples in decisions relating to their own development are, among others, basic objectives of integral development";

RECALLING that the Social Charter of the Americas recognizes that social justice and equity are essential for democracy;

RECOGNIZING that the Inter-American Democratic Charter establishes that “[e]ssential elements of representative democracy include, *inter alia*, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, access to and the exercise of power in accordance with the rule of law, the holding of periodic, free, and fair elections based on secret balloting and universal suffrage as an expression of the sovereignty of the people, the pluralistic system of political parties and organizations, and the separation of powers and independence of the branches of government”;

REAFFIRMING that the participatory nature of democracy in our countries in different aspects of public life contributes to the consolidation of democratic values and to freedom and solidarity in the Hemisphere;

RECOGNIZING the importance that the Organization of American States (OAS) continue to develop programs and activities aimed at promoting democratic principles and practices and at strengthening a democratic culture in the Hemisphere, as well as the advisability that the OAS consult and cooperate on an ongoing basis with member states;

RECALLING that the Inter-American Democratic Charter establishes that “[t]he promotion and observance of economic, social, and cultural rights are inherently linked to integral development, equitable economic growth, and to the consolidation of democracy in the states of the Hemisphere”;

BEARING IN MIND that the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and the American Convention on Human Rights express the values and principles of liberty, equality, and social justice, which are inherent to democracy;

RECALLING that the Inter-American Democratic Charter establishes that it is the right and responsibility of all citizens to participate in decisions relating to their own development. This is also a necessary condition for the full and effective exercise of democracy. Promoting and fostering diverse forms of participation strengthens democracy”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolutions AG/RES. 1957 (XXXVII-O/03), “Promotion and Strengthening of Democracy: Follow-Up to the Inter-American Democratic Charter [AG/RES. 2154 (XXXV-O/05), “Promotion of Regional Cooperation for Implementation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter”; AG/RES. 2251 (XXXVI-O/06), “Promotion of Regional Cooperation for Implementation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter on the Occasion of Its Fifth Anniversary”; AG/RES. 2327 (XXXVII-O/07), AG/RES. 2422 (XXXVIII-O/08), AG/RES. 2480 (XXXIX-O/09), AG/RES. 2555 (XL-O/10), AG/RES. 2694 (XLI-O/11), AG/RES. 2705 (XLII-O/12), and AG/RES. 2766 (XLIII-O/13), “Promotion and Strengthening of Democracy: Follow-up to the Inter-American Democratic Charter”;

HAVING SEEN the reports of the Permanent Council on the implementation of resolutions AG/RES. 2044 (XXXIV-O/04) and AG/RES. 2045 (XXXIV-O/04), (CP/doc.4024/05 and CP/CISC-182/05, respectively); resolution AG/RES. 2119 (XXXVIII-O/05); the Secretary General’s reports on the implementation of resolutions AG/RES. 1993 (XXXIV-O/04), (CP/CISC-174/05); and AG/RES.

2327 (XXXVII-O/07), as well as the implementation of resolutions AG/RES. 2422 (XXXVIII-O/08), AG/RES. 2555 (XL-O/10), and AG/RES. 2694 (XLI-O/11);

TAKING NOTE that the Declaration of Mar del Plata, “Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance,” of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, reaffirmed the “commitment to fight poverty, inequality, hunger, and social exclusion in order to raise the standard of living of our peoples and strengthen democratic governance in the Americas”;

RECALLING that in the Declaration of Mar del Plata, the Heads of State and Government reiterated their “commitment to the OAS Charter and the Inter-American Democratic Charter” and reaffirmed their “resolve to strengthen their full and effective implementation”;

RECALLING ALSO that in the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain, “Securing Our Citizens’ Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability,” of the Fifth Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to “uphold the principles of and fully implement the Inter-American Democratic Charter”;

CONSIDERING that the Declaration of Nuevo León of the Special Summit of the Americas reaffirmed the Hemisphere’s commitment to democracy and reiterated the commitment to the full application of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which constitutes an element of regional identity and, projected internationally, is a hemispheric contribution to the community of nations; and also recognized that corruption and impunity weaken public and private institutions, erode social values, undermine the rule of law, and distort economies and the allocation of resources for development;

REAFFIRMING solidarity and inter-American cooperation as effective means of promoting and strengthening democratic governance in the respective countries; and

NOTING the “Final Report on the Dialogue on the Effectiveness of the Implementation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter” (CP/doc.4669/11 rev. 3), resulting from the implementation of resolutions AG/RES. 2555 (XL-O/10) and AG/RES. 2694 (XLI-O/11), “Promotion and Strengthening of Democracy: Follow-up to the Inter-American Democratic Charter,”

RESOLVES:

1. To continue promoting democratic cooperation in order to support member states, at their request, in their efforts to strengthen democratic institutions, values, practices, and governance; fight corruption; enhance the rule of law; bring about the full exercise of human rights, and reduce poverty, inequity, and social exclusion.

2. To reaffirm that the promotion and protection of human rights is a prerequisite for a democratic society, and that it is important to continue to develop and strengthen the inter-American human rights system.

3. To recognize the importance of promoting the principles, values, and practices of a democratic culture; and to request the General Secretariat to continue supporting this objective

through training programs to promote the principles, values, and practices of a democratic culture, on the basis of articles 26 and 27 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and to improve awareness, disseminate the precepts, and promote the application of this inter-American instrument in the countries of the Hemisphere. Furthermore, to instruct the General Secretariat to continue to support the Permanent Council and the member states that so request with implementation of the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices.

4. To reaffirm as applicable the mandates contained in resolutions AG/RES. 2766 (XLIII-O/13), "Promotion and Strengthening of Democracy: Follow-up to the Inter-American Democratic Charter," and, in this context, to reiterate the request to the Secretary General to present a report to the Permanent Council on all cases in which action on his part is called for in the Charter of the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

5. To highlight the substantive contribution made by the Organization of American States (OAS) to the strengthening and development of electoral processes and systems in the member states, through OAS electoral observation missions, electoral advice, and technical cooperation, upon the request of a member state and consistent with the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation.

6. To request the General Secretariat to provide assistance to member states that so request in the implementation of recommendations contained in the reports of OAS electoral observation missions.

7. To encourage donors to pursue, through the General Secretariat, a coordinated donor approach to the support of OAS electoral observation missions in order to facilitate the early planning of missions.

8. To recommend to the General Secretariat that it support the modernization and strengthening of democratic institutions in the member states that so request, and promote cooperation and dialogue among these institutions as a means to build capacity and share experiences, including in the fields of civil registry, legislative cooperation and modernization and electoral technologies, decentralization and local governments, public administration and transparency, community participation, capacity building of youth and children on democratic values and practices, information and communications technology, and e-government.

9. To request the General Secretariat and member states to continue to promote a hemispheric discussion of issues relating to democratic governance, through dialogue, forums, and seminars.

10. To recognize the important role of participation by all sectors of society, including civil society, in consolidating democracy, given that such participation is vital to the success of development policies.

11. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue the Dialogue on the Effectiveness of the Implementation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, taking into account all the topics addressed and discussions contained in the Final Report (CP/doc.4669/11 rev. 3), approved on December 14, 2011.

12. To request the General Secretariat to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2836 (XLIV-O/14)

XXI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN resolution CD/RES. 05 (88-R/13), adopted by the Directing Council of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN);

CONSIDERING:

That Article 19 of the Statute of the IIN provides that the Pan American Child Congress is an inter-American ministerial meeting that has the purpose of promoting the exchange of experience and knowledge among the peoples in the Americas on the issues within the competence of the Institute and of proposing the relevant recommendations; and

That Article 22 of the Statute of the IIN states that the Congresses may act as Inter-American Specialized Conferences;

RECALLING:

That Article 122 of the Charter of the Organization of American States recognizes that “[t]he Specialized Conferences are intergovernmental meetings to deal with special technical matters or to develop specific aspects of inter-American cooperation. They shall be held when either the General Assembly or the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs so decides, on its own initiative or at the request of one of the Councils or Specialized Organizations”; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil has offered to host the XXI Pan American Child Congress, to be held in December 2014; and

That the designation of the Pan American Child Congress as an inter-American specialized conference would lend the event increased political and technical prominence and, consequently, give greater authority to the policy guidelines and decisions adopted, which would benefit children in the states of the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To declare the XXI Pan American Child Congress an inter-American specialized conference.
2. To encourage member states to provide their greatest possible support in ensuring a successful outcome to the event and to send their highest possible authorities to attend.

3. To thank the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil for its offer to host the XXI Pan American Child Congress, which will be held in Brasilia, Brazil, from December 10 to 12, 2014.

4. To instruct the General Secretariat, through the Department of Conferences and Meetings Management, to provide, upon request, its support for the activities mentioned in this resolution, on the understanding that the resources for the organization of the event will be the responsibility of the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Inter-American Children's Institute.

AG/RES. 2837 (XLIV-O/14)

FREE TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN THE HEMISPHERE

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 1364 (XXVI-O/96), “Free Trade and Investment in the Hemisphere,” through which the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI) was instructed to conduct a study on the matter;

RECOGNIZING the opinion of the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI/RES. II-14/96), in which the Committee unanimously concluded that “in the significant areas described above the bases and potential application of the legislation which is the subject of this Opinion are not in conformity with international law”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolutions AG/RES. 1447 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 1532 (XXVIII-O/98), AG/RES. 1614 (XXIX-O/99), AG/RES. 1700 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1826 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1884 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1914 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 1976 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2063 (XXXV-O/05), AG/RES. 2239 (XXXVI-O/06), AG/RES. 2301 (XXXVII-O/07), AG/RES. 2376 (XXXVIII-O/08), AG/RES. 2450 (XXXIX-O/09), AG/RES. 2547 (XL-O/10), AG/RES. 2684 (XLI-O/11), AG/RES. 2701 (XLII-O/12), and AG/RES. 2767 (XLIII-O/13); and

CONSIDERING the “Report of the Permanent Council on Free Trade and Investment in the Hemisphere” (CP/CG-2006/14 rev. 2),

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the “Report of the Permanent Council on Free Trade and Investment in the Hemisphere” presented pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 2767 (XLIII-O/13).

2. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session, on developments in this regard. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2838 (XLIV-O/14)

ASSISTANCE TO MEMBER STATES:
EFFECTIVE PUBLIC MANAGEMENT STRENGTHENING
AND INNOVATION INITIATIVE IN THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the “Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly 2013-2014” (AG/doc.5470/14 add. 1), in particular, the section on the activities of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP);

RECALLING the resolutions assigned to the CAJP in the “List of Resolutions of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) for the Period 2007-2012 Classified by Thematic Areas as Identified by the Informal Working Group to Review the Mandates of the CAJP” (CP/CAJP/INF.188/13);

CONSIDERING that the programs, activities, and tasks set out in the resolutions within the purview of the CAJP help further the essential purposes of the Organization enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of American States;

REAFFIRMING the norms and principles of international law and those contained in the Charter of the Organization of American States; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the mandates arising from General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2788 (XLIII-O/13), “Effective Public Management Strengthening and Innovation Initiative in the Americas,” which decided to amalgamate the initiatives and activities of the Department for Effective Public Management into a hemispheric cooperation mechanism on governance, and to develop initiatives aimed at strengthening government institutions—in particular, at the local and regional government level—in order to enable networks of authorities and experts to operate; create training and capacity-building opportunities through forums for exchange of experiences and mutual learning; and facilitate strategic partnerships among universities and educational institutions, among other initiatives,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm to the Permanent Council and to the General Secretariat the applicable mandates contained in past resolutions of the General Assembly assigned to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) and mentioned in the preamble to this resolution; to urge member states to continue contributing to the attainment of the objectives established in said resolutions through the development and execution of activities, submission of reports, exchange of information, and adoption of measures and policies, as well as through cooperation, support, and mutual assistance; and to instruct the General Secretariat to provide necessary support to those ends.

2. To take note of the outcomes of the Meeting of High Authorities of Public Management Governing Bodies in the member states of the Organization of American States, held in Panama City on March 14, 2014, which launched the Inter-American Cooperation Mechanism for Effective Public Management, whose purpose is to contribute to technical cooperation through dialogue and exchange among governmental experts, promote training and knowledge management, and create strategic partnerships with other international organizations, universities, and educational institutions, among others.

3. To encourage efforts by the Department for Effective Public Management to continue, at the request of member states, to provide assistance for government institution-building, including for local governments, bearing in mind their strategic importance to development and their proximity to the problems and needs of their citizens.

4. To encourage member states to participate in the aforementioned Mechanism and to make available their innovative experiences with the topics identified within its framework, observing as crosscutting themes, *inter alia*, improvement in the effectiveness and quality of public services, transparency, open government, citizen participation and the contribution of public agents.

5. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2839 (XLIV-O/14)

PROTECTION OF ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES IN THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 1762 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1832 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1892 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1971 (XXXIII-O/03), and AG/RES. 2047 (XXXIV-O/04), resolution AG/RES. 2232 (XXXVI-O/06), “Protection of Asylum Seekers, Refugees, and Returnees in the Americas”; and resolutions AG/RES. 2296 (XXXVII-O/07), AG/RES. 2402 (XXXVIII-O/08), AG/RES. 2511 (XXXIX-O/09), AG/RES. 2597 (XL-O/10), AG/RES. 2678 (XLI-O/11), and AG/RES. 2758 (XLII-O/12), “Protection of Asylum Seekers and Refugees in the Americas”;

EMPHASIZING that the commemorative process to mark the 30th anniversary of the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees (Cartagena+30) was officially launched with a meeting of ambassadors of the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) in Geneva, Switzerland, on February 13, 2014, during which the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) urged states to continue along the path set forth by the Mexico Declaration and Plan of Action (2004);

BEARING IN MIND that the commemorative process for the 30th anniversary of the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees (Cartagena+30) will allow progress to be made in the adoption of a new strategic framework for responding to the challenges of the coming decade, to the benefit of refugees and stateless persons, thereby reiterating the region’s commitment to people needing international protection;

NOTING that, as part of the commemorative process, various subregional meetings will be held, which will allow the member states, in collaboration with international agencies and civil society organizations, to identify the new challenges to international protection in the region;

WELCOMING the fact that 28 member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) have acceded to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, and 29 to its 1967 Protocol; that most of those countries have incorporated the provisions of those instruments into their domestic laws and regulations; and that Colombia adopted Decree 2840 of 2013 to protect refugees during the past year;

NOTING that on December 7 and 8, 2011, at the ministerial meeting held to conclude the commemorations for the 60th anniversary of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees initiated by the UNHCR, several OAS member states renewed their commitment to continue providing protection for asylum seekers, refugees, and stateless persons;

UNDERSCORING the importance of the Cooperation Agreement signed on November 12, 2007, by the OAS General Secretariat and UNHCR to promote international refugee law in the

Hemisphere, in whose framework the Fourth Course on International Refugee Law was held in January 2013 for permanent missions to the OAS;

RECOGNIZING the commitment assumed by the OAS member states to continue extending protection to asylum seekers and refugees on the basis of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, and to seek durable solutions to their situation;

UNDERSCORING the humanitarian and apolitical nature of international protection of refugees;

REITERATING the importance of the 2010 Brasilia Declaration on the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons in the Americas, the recommendations of which seek to revitalize the lasting-solutions component of the 2004 Mexico Plan of Action to Strengthen the International Protection of Refugees in Latin America, to strengthen its application as a regional approach to the new challenges of refugee identification and protection in the context of mixed migration movements, and to promote the signature and ratification of, or accession to, as appropriate, conventions on statelessness and the protection of stateless persons;

RECOGNIZING the efforts that countries of origin have been making, with support from the international community, to deal with the circumstances that generate flows of persons seeking international protection as refugees and the importance of persisting in those efforts;

EMPHASIZING the efforts made by some receiving countries of the region, even under difficult socioeconomic conditions, to continue extending protection to asylum seekers and refugees;

UNDERSCORING the importance of international technical and financial cooperation to adequately address and to find or, as appropriate, support durable solutions to the situation of refugees and asylum seekers; and noting with satisfaction, in this context, the signing of agreements between UNHCR and various countries of the region aimed at improving national protection mechanisms; and

RECOGNIZING the responsibility of states to provide international protection to refugees, based on existing international principles on the matter: right of asylum, non-refoulement, non-penalization of illegal entry, non-discrimination, international cooperation, shared responsibility, and international solidarity,

RESOLVES:

1. To call upon all states to continue to uphold and respect the international principles for the protection of refugees, in particular, the principle of non-refoulement.

2. To recognize and reaffirm the full effect and fundamental importance of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol as the principal instruments for refugee protection; and to reaffirm the commitment of the states parties to those instruments to implement fully and effectively the obligations set forth therein, in accordance with their object and purpose.

3. To urge those member states that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying, or acceding to, as the case may be, the international instruments in the area of refugees, and to promote the adoption of procedures and institutional mechanisms for their effective application, in accordance with those instruments.

4. To thank all member states that participated actively in the commemorations initiated by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and saw fit to make voluntary commitments to strengthen protection for asylum seekers and refugees in the Hemisphere.

5. To invite all member states to participate actively in the Cartagena+30 commemorative process in order to identify new challenges to international protection in the Hemisphere, and to invite them to attend the ministerial meeting in December 2014, sponsored by the Government of Brazil, with a view to the adoption of a new strategic framework that will respond to the protection needs of refugees and stateless persons over the coming decade.

6. To reiterate the necessity of continuing to strengthen the national bodies that determine refugee status, through quality management mechanisms, such as the Quality Assurance Initiative (QAI), reinforcement of bilateral and regional cooperation, and implementation of regional training programs, thus ensuring the effective application of due process standards recognized by both the inter-American human rights system and national laws, in all procedures to determine refugee status.

7. To reaffirm the importance and the vital role of international cooperation in the search for, and strengthening of, durable solutions to address the situation of refugees and asylum seekers; and to urge member states and the international community to increase technical and economic cooperation with the refugee-receiving countries of the Hemisphere that so require and to work in cooperation with UNHCR to provide effective protection to asylum seekers and refugees, taking into account the new strategic framework for protection that is to be adopted.

8. To recognize the efforts and the progress that countries of origin have made, and to encourage them, to the extent of their ability and with support from UNHCR and the international community, to continue making efforts to deal with the circumstances that generate flows of asylum seekers.

9. To recognize the efforts and progress that countries of the Hemisphere that receive refugees have made in implementing protection mechanisms in accordance with international refugee law and the international principles of refugee protection established therein.

10. To instruct the Permanent Council to organize, through the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs and with support from the Department of International Law of the General Secretariat and the technical and financial collaboration of UNHCR, a course prior to the forty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly on international refugee law, for staff of the permanent missions of the member states and of the General Secretariat as well as for other interested parties, which will address the topics reflected in the new strategic framework for protection that is to be adopted and to which national actors and experts may be invited.

11. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2840 (XLIV-O/14)

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN BUSINESS^{1/}

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolutions AG/RES. 2687 (XLI-O/11) and CIDI/RES. 276 (XVII-O/12), “Promotion of Corporate Social Responsibility in the Hemisphere”;

RECALLING the previous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the subject of promotion of corporate social responsibility in the Hemisphere, *inter alia*, AG/RES. 1871 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1953 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2013 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2123 (XXXV-O/05), AG/RES. 2194 (XXXVI-O/06), AG/RES. 2336 (XXXVII-O/07), AG/RES. 2483 (XXXIX-O/09), AG/RES. 2554 (XL-O/10), and AG/RES. 2753 (XLII-O/12);

BEARING IN MIND the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the American Convention on Human Rights, and the Additional Protocol to the American Convention in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Protocol of San Salvador), which provide for the protection, promotion, and observance of human rights;

RECALLING the Declaration of Mar del Plata of November 5, 2005, in which the Heads of State and Government recognized that “sustained economic growth, with equity and social inclusion, is an indispensable condition to create jobs, fight extreme poverty, and overcome inequality in the Hemisphere” and that “[t]o achieve these ends, it is necessary to improve transparency and the investment climate in our countries, build human capital, encourage increased incomes and improve their distribution, promote corporate social responsibility, and foster a spirit of entrepreneurship as well as strong business activity”;

RECOGNIZING that member states are responsible for good governance and the promotion and implementation of legislation that meets the needs of their citizens, and that they must ensure fulfillment of their human rights obligations;

RECOGNIZING ALSO that businesses, regardless of their size, sector of activity, operational context, or structure, perform an important role in political, economic, and social life, and have a responsibility to respect human rights wherever they carry out their activities, irrespective of the capacity of states to meet their obligations in that regard, although this does not diminish states’ duty to protect human rights in accordance with their obligations under international law;

EMPHASIZING the role of civil society and other social stakeholders and of national human rights bodies in defending people affected by human rights violations committed by businesses;

1. Ecuador wishes to underscore the efforts undertaken in the United Nations and other bodies to develop a binding international instrument on human rights and transnational enterprises ...

RECOGNIZING the important contributions to development made by different sources to the development of this topic, such as the United Nations Global Compact, and the International Labour Organization (ILO) Tripartite Declaration of Principles Concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy in establishing the evolutionary tendencies of policies and corporate due diligence in the area of human rights;

UNDERSCORING the importance of building the capacities of all players so they are able to deal with challenges in the arena of business and human rights, including through support for training efforts targeting government, businesses, civil society, and other relevant social stakeholders;

RECOGNIZING the significant support expressed in the United Nations Human Rights Council for the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework, which includes the guidelines that enjoy the broadest support with respect to protection and promotion of human rights in all spheres of business activity;

INSPIRED by the emerging practices and progress seen in the Hemisphere with regard to social responsibility and its anchoring in human rights;

TAKING NOTE of the report adopted by the Inter-American Juridical Committee entitled “Corporate Social Responsibility in the Area of Human Rights and the Environment in the Americas” (CJI/doc.449/14 rev. 1), which contains recommended guidelines for OAS member states; and

TAKING NOTE ALSO of the recent First Latin America and Caribbean Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights, held in Medellín, Colombia, from August 28 to 30, 2013,

RESOLVES:

1. To continue promoting the application of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and to urge member states to disseminate those principles as broadly as possible, facilitating the exchange of information and sharing of best practices on promotion and protection of human rights in business in order to create greater awareness of the benefits of their application.

2. To underscore the importance of continuing to make progress with the topic of business and human rights and, therefore, to invite the member states to consider the matter in the appropriate bodies.

3. To encourage member states and their respective national human rights institutes and/or competent institutions to foster constructive dialogue among business, government, and civil society and other social actors for the application of the Guiding Principles.

4. To request the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development to continue, in a coordinated fashion and within the sphere of their responsibilities, to support states in the promotion and application of state and business commitments in the area of human rights and business.

5. To request the Permanent Council to hold a special meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs in first quarter 2015 to foster the exchange of best practices and experiences in the promotion and protection of human rights in business. That special meeting shall be attended by the member states; government, academic, and civil society experts; and other social actors, as well as representatives of international organizations, and through the Secretariat for Legal Affairs shall prepare a report of that meeting's findings prior to the forty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly.

6. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

FOOTNOTE

1. ...that establishes a clear and appropriate framework for promoting and protecting human rights vis-à-vis the situation of transnational enterprises.

AG/RES. 2841 (XLIV-O/14)

PREPARATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION OF THE SOCIAL CHARTER OF THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN resolutions AG/RES. 2056 (XXXIV-O/04) and AG/RES. 2139 (XXXV-O/05), “Draft Social Charter of the Americas: Renewal of the Hemispheric Commitment to Fight Extreme Poverty in the Region”; AG/RES. 2241 (XXXIX-O/06), “Social Charter of the Americas: Renewal of the Hemispheric Commitment to Fight Extreme Poverty in the Region”; AG/RES. 2278 (XXXVII-O/07), AG/RES. 2363 (XXXVIII-O/08), AG/RES. 2449 (XXXIX-O/09), AG/RES. 2542 (XL-O/10), AG/RES. 2695 (XLI-O/11), and AG/RES. 2699 (XLII-O/12), “Social Charter of the Americas: Renewal of the Hemispheric Commitment to Fight Poverty in the Region”; and AG/RES. 2775 (XLIII-O/13), “Preparation of the Plan of Action of the Social Charter of the Americas”; and

BEARING IN MIND:

That at its forty-second regular session, held in Cochabamba, Bolivia, the General Assembly adopted the Social Charter of the Americas contained in document AG/doc.5242/12 rev. 2 and instructed the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to jointly prepare a draft plan of action for that Charter that would include the principles governing social development and establish specific targets and objectives to strengthen the already existing instruments in the Organization of American States on democracy, integral development, and the fight against poverty;

That, in September 2012, the Joint Working Group of the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development was formed to take up that mandate and that the General Assembly, at its forty-third regular session, held in Antigua, Guatemala, in June 2013, extended “the mandate of the Joint Working Group of the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and urge[d] it to conclude the Draft Plan of Action of the Social Charter of the Americas prior to the forty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly”;

That the Social Charter of the Americas and the Draft Plan of Action of the Social Charter of the Americas (GTC/CASA/doc.201/12 rev. 4) are the basis documents of the formal negotiation process for preparing the Plan of Action of the Social Charter of the Americas; and

That, although the Working Group has made significant progress with drafting the aforementioned Plan of Action, owing to the diversity of topics encompassed by the Social Charter of the Americas, there is a need to continue consultations with the appropriate national authorities, which makes it necessary to extend the Working Group’s mandate,

RESOLVES:

1. To extend the mandate of the Joint Working Group of the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and urge it to conclude the Draft Plan of Action of the Social Charter of the Americas, preferably before December 31, 2014.
2. To authorize the Permanent Council and CIDI to approve, ad referendum of the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session, the Plan of Action of the Social Charter of the Americas.
3. To urge member states to continue making every effort needed to complete the preparation of the Plan of Action of the Social Charter of the Americas.
4. To request the General Secretariat to continue lending the Joint Working Group of the Permanent Council and CIDI the support it needs to conclude its work, in coordination with all the competent areas of the Organization and specialized international organizations.
5. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2842 (XLIV-O/14)

ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 2811 (XLIII-O/13), “Access to Public Information and Protection of Personal Data,” and its previous resolutions on that topic; reiterating the background and mandates contained therein; and having seen the “Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly 2013-2014” (AG/doc.5470/14 add. 1) as it pertains to the status of compliance with resolution AG/RES. 2811 (XLIII-O/13);

RECALLING ALSO that both access to public information and the protection of personal data are fundamental values that must operate in harmony at all times;

REITERATING the vital role of international instruments in the promotion and protection of access to public information, as well as the essential role of access to public information in electoral and democratic processes; in state governance, transparency, and anticorruption efforts; in the protection and promotion of human rights, especially the right to freedom of thought and expression; and in freedom of the press;

RECALLING that the principle of maximum disclosure is consubstantial to access to public information;

REAFFIRMING the importance of the Model Inter-American Law on Access to Public Information in the promotion of access to public information, as well as the role of member states, the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, and civil society and other social actors in implementing the Model Law;

TAKING NOTE of the Preliminary Draft Inter-American Program on Access to Public Information (CP/CAJP-3135/13) presented by the Department of International Law at the meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) held on April 11, 2013, pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 2727 (XLII-O/12), and of the meeting of the CAJP held on April 3, 2014, to consider that preliminary draft;

NOTING ALSO that the Department of International Law forwarded to the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) information on national legislations, experiences, and best practices on the issue of access to public information in the region, in accordance with resolution AG/RES. 2811 (XLIII-O/13);

NOTING FURTHER that the General Secretariat, through its Secretariat for Legal Affairs, has accepted an invitation from the Transparency and Access to Information Network (RTA) to participate in the Network as a permanent observer;

CONSIDERING the growing importance of privacy and the protection of personal data, and the need to encourage and protect cross-border flows of information in the Americas;

BEARING IN MIND that the privacy and protection of personal data whose disclosure could harm legitimate rights of its legal bearer is one of the exceptions to access to public information;

RECALLING that according to the terms of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, and the American Convention on Human Rights, no one may be the object of arbitrary or illegal interference with his privacy, his family, his home, or his correspondence, and that everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks;

TAKING NOTE that the General Secretariat, through its Department of International Law, has accepted the invitation of the Ibero-American Data Protection Network (RIPD) to participate in the Network as a permanent observer; and

TAKING NOTE ALSO of the comparative study on different existing legal regimes, policies, and enforcement mechanisms for the protection of personal data, including domestic legislation, regulation, and self-regulation (CP/CAJP-3063/12) presented by the Department of International Law; of resolution CJI/RES. 186 (LXXX-O/12), "Proposed Statement of Principles for Privacy and Personal Data Protection in the Americas," presented by the Inter-American Juridical Committee; and of the meeting of the CAJP held on November 13, 2012, with the participation of the Inter-American Juridical Committee, the member states, and the General Secretariat, to analyze the studies received on personal data protection and consider the possibility of a regional framework in this area,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the importance of access to public information as an indispensable requirement for democracy, as well as the commitment of the member states to respect and uphold the principle of providing access to public information.

2. To encourage member states, in designing, executing, and evaluating their regulations and policies on access to public information, to consider embracing and implementing the Model Inter-American Law on Access to Public Information, contained in resolution AG/RES. 2607 (XL-O/10), and its Implementation Guide.

3. To instruct the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS), through the Department of International Law, to continue supporting, with the assistance of civil society and other social actors, the efforts of those member states that so request in adopting the legislative and other appropriate measures needed to guarantee access to public information, in particular for the implementation of the aforementioned Model Law or for continuing to bring themselves into line with it; and the promotion of contacts and exchanges of best practices among the national authorities (commissioners, ombudsmen, etc.) responsible for implementing access to public information.

4. To instruct the Permanent Council, through the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP), to include on its agenda in the last quarter of 2014 the continued consideration of the Preliminary Draft Inter-American Program on Access to Public Information (CP/CAJP-3135/13) submitted by the Department of International Law pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 2727 (XLII-O/12) and of comments and suggestions offered by member states.

5. To urge member states to continue holding, with the support of the Department of International Law, domestic and regional seminars, such as those organized in Peru (May 2013), Panama (June 2013), and Costa Rica (September 2013), on the implementation of the Model Inter-American Law on Access to Public Information in their national contexts and to provide conclusions and recommendations as a means to help incorporate the standards of said Model Law in the legal, judicial, and administrative practices of the member states.

6. To instruct the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to continue including in the Annual Report of the IACHR a report on the situation/state of access to public information in the region and its effect on the exercise of the right to freedom of expression.^{1/}

7. To reaffirm the importance of protecting personal data and of respecting the right to privacy—whereby no one may be the object of arbitrary or illegal interference with his private life, his family, his home, or his correspondence—and the right of all persons to the protection of the law against such interference, recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, and the American Convention on Human Rights.

8. To invite member states, when applicable, and the General Secretariat—through its Secretariat for Legal Affairs—in its capacity as a permanent observer, to continue supporting the work of the Transparency and Access to Information Network (RTA) and to participate actively in its activities.

9. To invite member states, when applicable, and the General Secretariat—through its Department of International Law—in its capacity as a permanent observer, to continue supporting the work of the Ibero-American Data Protection Network (RIPD) and to participate actively in meetings of the International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners.

10. To instruct the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI), before the forty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly, to prepare proposals for the CAJP on the different ways in which the protection of personal data can be regulated, including a model law on personal data protection, taking into account international standards in that area.

11. To instruct the General Secretariat and CJI to continue promoting channels of collaboration with other international and regional organizations currently engaged in efforts in the area of data protection and with national authorities for such matters, in order to facilitate the exchange of information and cooperation.

1. Ecuador and Venezuela wish to state for the record that they have serious questions as to the legitimacy of, and methods employed by, the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression.

12. To instruct the General Secretariat to identify new resources to support member states' efforts to facilitate access to public information and the protection of personal data; and to encourage other donors to make contributions toward that goal.

13. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2843 (XLIV-O/14)

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR UNIVERSAL CIVIL REGISTRY
AND THE “RIGHT TO IDENTITY”

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

EXPRESSING ITS SATISFACTION with the adoption on June 3, 2008, through resolution AG/RES. 2362 (XXXVIII-O/08), of the Inter-American Program for Universal Civil Registry and the “Right to Identity,” and recalling resolution AG/RES. 2719 (XL-O/12), “Follow-up to the Inter-American Program for Universal Civil Registry and the ‘Right to Identity’”;

RECOGNIZING the obligations of the States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to undertake to respect the right of the child to preserve his or her identity (“right to identity”);

RECALLING the Opinion adopted by the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI) on the scope of the right to identity (CJI/doc.276/07 rev. 1);

CONSIDERING that recognition of the identity of persons is one of the means through which observance is facilitated of the rights to legal personhood, a name, a nationality, civil registration, and family relationships, among other rights recognized in international instruments such as the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and the American Convention on Human Rights. The exercise of these rights is essential for the consolidation of any democratic society;

RECOGNIZING the work carried out by the Universal Civil Identity Program in the Americas (PUICA), which supports the efforts of member states to ensure recognition of the right to civil identity for everyone in the region;

CONSIDERING that non-recognition of identity can mean that a person has no legal proof of his or her existence, which makes it difficult to exercise fully his or her civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights;

UNDERSCORING the importance of civil registries as one of the state institutions that can guarantee recognition of the identity of persons and, therefore, the advisability of strengthening them to ensure that their scope is universal, taking into account the diversity of cultures and the need to look for mechanisms to facilitate registration of individuals who belong to indigenous peoples and communities, in order to ensure their full enjoyment of their rights and guarantees;

UNDERSCORING ALSO the importance of the mechanism of the regional Latin American and Caribbean conferences on the right to identity and universal birth registration;

RECOGNIZING the regional cooperation and exchange of successful experiences by countries in the Hemisphere that have implemented plans, programs, and actions to guarantee the right to identity and universal civil registry;

RECOGNIZING ALSO the need for cooperation among states and civil society organizations for promotion of the civil registry;

RECALLING the special meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs held on November 1, 2012, pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 2719 (XLII-O/12), to review the status of implementation of the Inter-American Program for Universal Civil Registry and the “Right to Identity,” at which a progress report on the Program (CP/CAJP-3104/12 add. 3) was presented, in which states reported on advances made and shared best practices;

RECOGNIZING that the Americas region has reduced its non-registration rate to among the lowest in the world thanks to the efforts of member states and the work of the Organization of American States through the PUICA;

NOTING the conclusions and commitments that emerged from the X Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Latin American and Caribbean Council for Civil Registration, Identity, and Vital Statistics (CLARCIEV), held in Lima, Peru, on December 6, 2013; and

ACKNOWLEDGING the pledge of the Ministry of the Interior of Mexico to host the Third Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference on the Right to Identity and Universal Birth Registration,

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize the progress made in implementing the Inter-American Program for Universal Civil Registry and the “Right to Identity,” particularly in relation to:

- a. Dissemination of the importance of civil identity for the full exercise of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights; the strengthening of democratic governance; and the development of states;
- b. The technical assistance projects aimed at strengthening civil registry institutions in 18 member states; and
- c. Promotion and exchange of successful experiences with civil registry and identity.

2. To instruct the General Secretariat, through its Universal Civil Identity Program in the Americas (PUICA), to continue providing member states that so request with the necessary assistance for the improvement and enhancement of their civil registry systems and the adoption of universal civil registration.

3. To recognize the progress that member states have made in lowering the rate of non-registration of children under five years of age in Latin America and the Caribbean, as a result of which that rate has fallen from 18 percent in 2000 to 7 percent today.

4. To encourage the member states to continue adopting measures to ensure full recognition of the right to identity, emphasizing that non-recognition of identity can mean that a person has no legal proof of his or her existence, which makes it difficult to exercise fully his or her civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights.

5. To urge all member states to promote access for all people to key identification documents by implementing well-functioning civil registration and vital statistics systems, including simplified, non-discriminatory procedures, respecting cultural diversity, paying special attention to the protection of personal data, and applying a gender-aware approach.

6. To invite member states to modernize institutions by establishing and enhancing structural conditions for promoting civil registration, including integrated systems and interconnected policies, such as sanitation, education, health, social protection, and migration, among others.

7. To request the General Secretariat to continue increasing its cooperation with other specialized organizations and agencies of the inter-American and international systems on matters of citizen registration.

8. To urge the Secretary General to include the Inter-American Program for Universal Civil Registry and the "Right to Identity" in the list of priorities presented with a view to raising funds from external donors, and to invite member states and permanent observers to make voluntary contributions to support the development, implementation, and scope of the Program.

9. To entrust the General Secretariat, jointly with the Inter-American Development Bank, the United Nations Children's Fund, and the Ministry of the Interior of Mexico, with organizing: (i) the Third Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference on the Right to Identity and Universal Birth Registration in the first quarter of 2015, with a view to coming up with recommendations for strengthening the capacity of registries; measuring registration with a standard methodology that covers all citizens; and proposing the inclusion of timely birth registration as one of the post-2015 development goals; and (ii) within the framework of said Regional Conference, a meeting of ministers and national authorities on universal civil registry and the right to identity in Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to discuss regional strategies on such matters.

10. To request the General Secretariat to present to the Permanent Council in 2015 a report on the results and conclusions of the Third Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference on the Right to Identity and Universal Birth Registration and of the Meeting of Ministers and National Authorities on Universal Civil Registry and the Right to Identity in Latin America and the Caribbean.

11. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue developing, strengthening, and promoting the use of information and communication technologies for the discussion, sharing, and fostering of experiences and lessons learned and dissemination of knowledge on matters of identity and civil registry in the region.

12. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2844 (XLIV-O/14)

MEETING OF MINISTERS OF JUSTICE OR OTHER MINISTERS
OR ATTORNEYS GENERAL OF THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

BEARING IN MIND that the Ninth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-IX) reaffirmed the REMJA process as the political and technical forum for hemispheric cooperation in the areas of justice and legal cooperation, and the usefulness and effectiveness of the institutions and cooperation processes created or developed under the REMJA umbrella for consolidating the rule of law in the Americas; and that, at the Summits of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government have expressed their support for the work carried out through the REMJA process and for the implementation of its conclusions and recommendations; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that resolution AG/RES. 2783 (XLI-O/13) instructed the Permanent Council to duly follow up on the “Conclusions and Recommendations of REMJA-IX,”

RESOLVES:

1. To express its satisfaction with the progress made with implementing the recommendations of the Ninth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-IX), as seen, *inter alia*, in the holding of eighth meeting of the REMJA Working Group on Cybercrime at the headquarters of the Organization of American States (OAS) on February 27 and 28, 2014, and in the holding of the sixth meeting of the REMJA Working Group on Legal Cooperation in Criminal Matters in Brasilia, Brazil, on May 15 and 16, 2014.

2. To support, as agreed on by REMJA IX, the continued encouragement, under the leadership of the Chair of REMJA, of an exchange among the heads of delegation in order to agree on the modifications deemed relevant with respect to the competencies that correspond to the REMJA and to consider adopting the amendments to the Document of Washington (REMJA-VII/doc.6/08 rev. 2) that are necessary as a result, bearing in mind that the REMJA process has consolidated its position as the hemispheric political and technical forum in the areas of justice and international legal cooperation. To that end, to ask the REMJA Technical Secretariat to conduct, prior to REMJA X, consultations with the member states in order to provide inputs for the discussions on these topics at REMJA X.

3. To instruct the Department of Legal Cooperation of the OAS General Secretariat of the OAS (hereinafter, “REMJA Technical Secretariat”) to continue to: provide support, legal advice, and technical assistance to the REMJA process and its working groups and technical meetings; prepare documents and studies to support follow-up or implementation of their recommendations; carry out programs, projects, and technical cooperation activities in pursuit thereof; manage and maintain the networks created under its responsibility in the REMJA framework; take steps to secure

funding for the activities of the REMJA process; strengthen coordination and collaboration with the secretariats of other international cooperation agencies, entities, or mechanisms in areas that concern the REMJA; and consider the performance of the other functions assigned to it in the Document of Washington.

4. To invite member states and permanent observers to make voluntary contributions for the implementation of the recommendations of the REMJA process and its working groups and technical meetings.

5. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue to duly follow up on the “Conclusions and Recommendations of REMJA IX” and, in keeping with the provisions of the Document of Washington, convene in due course the meetings provided for therein as well as REMJA X, subject to the availability of financial resources in the Organization’s program-budget and other resources.

6. To request the REMJA Technical Secretariat to report to the Permanent Council on the implementation of this resolution prior to the forty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2845 (XLIV-O/14)

RIGHTS OF PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY^{1/}

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 1816 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1897 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1927 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2037 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2125 (XXXV-O/05), AG/RES. 2233 (XXXVI-O/06), AG/RES. 2283 (XXXVII-O/07), AG/RES. 2403 (XXXVIII-O/08), AG/RES. 2510 (XXXIX-O/09), AG/RES. 2592 (XL-O/10), and AG/RES. 2668 (XLI-O/11), relating to the rights of persons deprived of liberty;

RECOGNIZING the undertaking by the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) to respect, guarantee, and protect the human rights of persons who have been deprived of their liberty established in all the human rights treaties to which the states are parties, including the American Convention on Human Rights, and other human rights instruments, including the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man;

MINDFUL that throughout the Hemisphere major challenges persist for fully ensuring the observance, guarantee, and protection of the human rights of persons deprived of liberty;

MINDFUL ALSO of the need for special vigilance with regard to the specific situation of children, juveniles, and women in the administration of justice, particularly while deprived of their liberty, considering their vulnerability to various forms of violence, abuse, injustice, and humiliation;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The Principles and Best Practices on the Protection of Persons Deprived of Liberty in the Americas, adopted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in 2008;

The contents, conclusions, and recommendations of the IACHR report entitled “The Human Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty,” published in 2011;

The content, conclusions, and recommendations of the IACHR report entitled “The Use of Pretrial Detention in the Americas,” published in 2014;

The work and pronouncements of the IACHR and its Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty on the subject;

The conclusions and recommendations on penitentiary and prison policies of the member states, adopted at the ten meetings of the Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA); and

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1. The United States is firmly committed to respecting and ensuring the rights of persons deprived of liberty as set forth in human rights treaties to which it is a party, and the corresponding principles ...

The conclusions adopted at the three meetings of Officials Responsible for Penitentiary and Prison Policies of the OAS Member States, held in Washington, D.C. (2003 and 2012) and Valdivia, Chile (2008);

CONVINCED that coordinated action between the OAS and the member states contributes to insight into the challenges in this area and their causes, as well as to the design and execution of regional and national strategies and measures to address them; and

UNDERSCORING the importance and usefulness of the work and contributions of other relevant international organizations, civil society organizations, and social actors to member states' efforts to respect, guarantee, and protect the rights of persons deprived of liberty,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the member states to comply with their international obligations to respect, guarantee, and protect the human rights of persons deprived of liberty, paying particular attention to the situation of groups that are vulnerable and/or historically subject to discrimination and of persons sentenced to death.

2. To exhort the member states to analyze, from a human rights standpoint, and applying a gender-sensitive and other differentiating approaches, their regulatory, statutory, institutional, and public policy frameworks in respect of penitentiary and prison matters, and, where applicable, to adopt the measures needed to comply fully with their international obligations, taking into account the different instruments, reports, conclusions, and recommendations adopted within the Organization of American States (OAS) and indicated above, together with the good practices recorded by other states and the contributions of relevant international stakeholders, civil society organizations, and social actors.

3. To urge the member states, in their analysis and adaptation of the regulatory, normative, institutional, and public policy framework, to accord priority to adaptations and/or measures designed to:

- a. Guarantee persons deprived of liberty appropriate conditions in respect of accommodation, hygiene, food, clothing, medical and psychological care, and access to and interaction with family members in detention centers;
- b. Support the objective of social re-adaptation to the extent possible by allowing the detained person to serve his or her sentence as close as possible to his or her family;
- c. Prevent and reduce overcrowding in detention centers/prisons;
- d. Prevent and deal appropriately with violent incidents in detention centers/prisons;
- e. Prevent, investigate, and, when proven, punish the practice of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, as well as disproportionate use of force by detention center/prison personnel;

- f. Pay special attention to persons deprived of liberty who belong to more vulnerable groups and/or groups historically subjected to discrimination, and to persons sentenced to death;
- g. Guarantee persons deprived of liberty prompt and effective access to justice;
- h. Limit pretrial detention to highly exceptional cases, subject to the principles of legality, presumption of innocence, necessity, and proportionality, and consider the regulation and use of noncustodial precautionary measures; and
- i. Train detention center/prison personnel in human rights and decent treatment of the prison inmates.

4. To encourage member states to continue exchanging information, experiences, and best practices; to strengthen their mutual cooperation on prison and penitentiary matters, with particular emphasis on strategies and actions that ensure respect, guarantees, and protection for the rights of persons deprived of liberty; and, to that end, to take advantage of the meetings of Officials Responsible for Penitentiary and Prison Policies in the Member States, those of the REMJA, and other relevant meetings.

5. To instruct the Permanent Council, through the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, to organize and hold at least one meeting of competent OAS organs and entities and member states to address the principal challenges with regard to ensuring the observance, guarantee, and protection of the rights of persons deprived of liberty and to consider proposed regional and/or national initiatives, strategies, and/or actions to deal with those challenges, with a view to submitting recommendations to the next Meeting of Officials Responsible for Penitentiary and Prison Policies in the Member States, the next REMJA, and, ultimately, the General Assembly at its forty-sixth regular session.

6. To request the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and its Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty to continue their work of monitoring the situation of persons deprived of liberty in the Americas and to play an active part in the upcoming meetings of the Officials Responsible for Penitentiary and Prison Policies in the Member States, the REMJA, and other relevant meetings.

7. To instruct the OAS Department of Public Security to consider at upcoming meetings of Officials Responsible for Penitentiary and Prison Policies in the Member States and the REMJA process regional and/or national initiatives, strategies, and actions to help deal with the challenges with regard to ensuring the observance, guarantee, and protection of the rights of persons deprived of liberty, based on proposals and recommendations formulated by the member states and other OAS organs and entities with responsibilities in this area.

8. To recognize the important done by work the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), within its sphere of competence, to help persons deprived of their liberty to receive humane treatment; and to encourage countries to cooperate with ICRC efforts.

9. To encourage pertinent international actors, civil society organizations, and social actors to continue their work on, and contributions to, measures to confront the challenges found in this field.

10. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

FOOTNOTE

1. ... as enshrined in instruments including the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man. The United States also highlights that its policy and practices pay particular attention to the situation of individuals and groups who currently are vulnerable or are currently subject to discrimination, which may not necessarily be the same individuals or groups historically subject to discrimination. The United States further notes that it applies pretrial detention to the extent necessary and appropriate in the specific facts of an individual case.

AG/RES. 2846 (XLIV-O/14)

SUPPORT FOR AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS^{1/2/}

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the initiatives emanating from the First Summit of the Americas (Miami, 1994), the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development (Santa Cruz de la Sierra, 1996), the Second Summit of the Americas (Santiago, 1998), the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec City, 2001), the Special Summit of the Americas (Monterrey, 2004), the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, 2005), the Fifth Summit of the Americas (Port of Spain, 2009), and the Sixth Summit of the Americas (Cartagena de Indias, 2012);

RECALLING that, through resolution AG/RES. 1349 (XXV-O/95), the General Assembly established a special committee of the Permanent Council on inter-American summits management, and that, at its meeting of July 31, 2002, the Permanent Council decided to merge it with the Committee on Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities, thereby creating the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC), in order to ensure effective, timely, and appropriate follow-up of the activities assigned to the Organization of American States (OAS) by the Summits of the Americas and to coordinate the Organization's preparation, participation, and follow-up with regard to future Summits;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the acknowledgment by the Third Summit of the function that the CISC fulfills in coordinating the efforts of the OAS in support of the Summits of the Americas process and in serving as a forum for civil society to contribute to that process, as well as the establishment of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat;

RECALLING that at Summits of the Americas, the heads of state and government have recognized the important role played by the OAS in the implementation of decisions of the Summits of the Americas and as technical secretariat of the Summits process;

RECOGNIZING the work of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), which comprises the OAS, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the World Bank, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);

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1. The Republic of Ecuador enters its express reservation to references to the Sixth Summit of the Americas, held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on April 14 and 15, 2012, ...
 2. The Governments of Nicaragua and Ecuador consider that the reference to the Summit in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, and the appeal to strengthen the so-called "Summit of the Americas"...

RECOGNIZING ALSO the increasing emphasis placed by the heads of state and government on the importance of coordinated, timely, and effective follow-up of the Summits of the Americas mandates; and

RECALLING that at the ministerial meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) held in the framework of the fortieth regular session of the General Assembly at Lima, Peru, in June 2010, the Secretary General of the OAS launched the Summits of the Americas Virtual Community as a tool for modernizing the mechanisms for dialogue among all the actors involved in the Summits process,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states to continue to implement the commitments of the Summits of the Americas and to promote and disseminate them within their respective national administrations.
2. To renew the mandate to the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC) to coordinate and follow up on the activities assigned to the Organization of American States (OAS) by the Summits of the Americas.
3. To instruct the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization to continue to give the highest priority to carrying out the initiatives assigned to them by the General Assembly, in accordance with the mandates of the Summits of the Americas, and to report regularly on these activities, as appropriate, to the Permanent Council, the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), and the CISC.
4. To request that the General Secretariat, through the Summits Secretariat, continue to serve as the institutional memory and secretariat of the Summits of the Americas process, advising the host country of the Summit and member states, as requested, in general on all aspects related to the Summits process, supporting follow-up and dissemination of Summit mandates, offering support to member states in implementing existing mandates and those of future Summits, and supporting preparatory activities and technical coordination for the next Summit of the Americas, to be held in the Republic of Panama in 2015.
5. To instruct the Permanent Council and, when appropriate, the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG), to continue to promote and facilitate the participation of social actors, including civil society, labor organizations, indigenous groups, the private sector, and youth, in the Summits of the Americas process and in activities related to topics assigned to the OAS by that process, as well as the efforts of member states to foster such participation.
6. To urge member states, through the SIRG, to report annually on the implementation and follow-up of the mandates established in the Summits of the Americas process.
7. To request the Summits Secretariat to continue to report to the CISC and to the SIRG on the activities and programs being carried out in support of member states' efforts to implement Summit mandates, and to report to the CISC on the technical input prepared by the General Secretariat of the OAS on the Summits process, including reports on inter-American ministerial meetings linked to the Summits process.

8. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue, through the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), chaired by the Summits Secretariat, to coordinate and promote the implementation and follow-up in JSWG institutions of the mandates of the Summits of the Americas; to hold at least one meeting of agency heads each year to review progress made and plan joint activities, as a complement to the regular interagency meetings; and to report thereon to the CISC and the SIRG.

9. To request that the JSWG continue to provide assistance in the preparations for the next Summit of the Americas.

10. In order to strengthen the Summits of the Americas process and its link to the inter-American ministerial meetings:

- a. To urge member states to improve intersectoral coordination among ministers and authorities;
- b. To instruct the Summits Secretariat to keep track of ministerial meetings and provide technical guidance for member states, as requested, on ways to strengthen internal coordination on the implementation of Summit mandates; and
- c. To urge countries hosting inter-American ministerial meetings to work with the Summits Secretariat to ensure follow-up on relevant mandates from the Summits of the Americas and, as appropriate, to prepare for future Summits.

11. To request the General Secretariat through the Summits Secretariat to provide full support to states in following up on and implementing Summit mandates, and in the use of the Summits of the Americas Follow-up System.

12. To request the General Secretariat to make efforts, through the Summits Secretariat and member states, to promote and disseminate among the stakeholders in the Summits process the mandates emanating from the Summits of the Americas, so that they may contribute to their implementation.

13. To request the General Secretariat to make efforts, through the Summits Secretariat, to continue to explore and implement methods for promoting and increasing awareness and the participation of social actors in the Summits process, through the use of the Summits of the Americas Virtual Community and other information and communication technologies, among others.

14. To urge member states to continue contributing to the Specific Fund for the Summit Implementation Review Group in order to provide financial support for the Group's activities.

15. To request the General Secretariat to strengthen the Summits Secretariat by providing it with the human and financial resources to fulfill its function as technical secretariat of the Summits of the Americas process efficiently and effectively.

16. That execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources; and to instruct the Secretary General to seek additional voluntary funds to carry out the activities mentioned in this resolution.

17. To request the General Secretariat to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... without prejudice to the contents approved by Ecuador in other negotiation contexts, as appropriate.

2. ... are inappropriate, in that, during that event, the Heads of State and Government were unable to consider or adopt the Political Declaration, which reflected the common will of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for the sister republic of Cuba to participate unconditionally and on a footing of sovereign equality. We reaffirm that a “Summit of the Americas” cannot be held without the presence of Cuba. The mandates and operative paragraphs on the core themes were part of the Political Declaration and as the latter were not adopted, neither were the former. For that reason, Nicaragua and Ecuador disagree with making references to these documents and mandates that were not adopted.

AG/RES. 2847 (XLIV-O/14)

RECOGNITION AND PROMOTION OF THE RIGHTS
OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT IN THE AMERICAS^{1/}

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 2550 (XL-O/10), AG/RES. 2693 (XLI-O/11), AG/RES. 2708 (XLII-O/12), and AG/RES. 2784 (XLIII-O/13);

BEARING IN MIND:

That the Charter of the Organization of American States establishes as one of the principles of the Organization recognition of the fundamental rights of the individual without distinction as to race, nationality, creed, or sex; and that the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man establishes that all men are born free and equal, in dignity and in rights, without distinction as to race, sex, language, creed, or any other factor;

That the Social Charter of the Americas states, “Member states recognize the contributions of indigenous peoples, afro-descendants, and migrant communities to the historical process of the Hemisphere and will promote recognition of their value. Member states also recognize the need to adopt policies to promote inclusion and to prevent, combat, and eliminate all forms of intolerance and discrimination, especially gender, ethnic, and race discrimination, in order to safeguard equal rights and opportunities and strengthen democratic values”; and

That the Inter-American Democratic Charter proclaims that respect for ethnic, cultural, and religious diversity in the Americas contributes to strengthening democracy and citizen participation;

RECALLING the relevant provisions on people of African descent contained in the declarations of the Summits of the Americas, as well as in the Declaration of the Regional Conference of the Americas (Preparatory Meeting for the Third World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance) held in Santiago, Chile, in 2000; and the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean Preparatory to the Durban Review Conference held in Brasilia, Brazil, in 2008;^{2/}

RECALLING ALSO the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993; the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

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1. The United States has consistently objected to the negotiation of new legally binding instruments against racism, racial discrimination and other forms of discrimination or intolerance. ...
 2. Honduras: Recalling, among other events, the First World Summit of African Descendants, held in La Ceiba, Honduras, in August 2011.

adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001; and the Durban Review Conference held in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2009;^{3/}

RECOGNIZING the work performed by several areas of the General Secretariat of the Organization on the topic of people of African descent, including the training activities for Afro-descendant leaders and efforts to mainstream the topic carried out by the Department of International Law since 2008, and the replications of those activities held in numerous countries of the region;

REAFFIRMING the steadfast commitment of the member states to confront, through various mechanisms, the scourge of racism, discrimination, and intolerance in their societies as a problem that affects society in general, and that all of its individual, structural, and institutional manifestations must be fought; and

NOTING with satisfaction the adoption of the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance and the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance, and the adoption of the International Decade for People of African Descent within the framework of the United Nations and of the International Decade of Afro-descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the importance of full, free, and equal participation and opportunities for people of African descent in all aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural life in the states of the Americas, some of which consider themselves to be, *inter alia*, plurinational, intercultural, pluriethnic, and/or multicultural.

2. To take note of the efforts of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), of its Special Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons of African Descent and against Racial Discrimination, and of the General Secretariat, which seek to promote and protect the rights of persons of African descent in the member states.

3. To facilitate the participation of organizations representing people of African descent and their communities as one of the social actors in the Summits of the Americas process and to recognize their political, economic, social, and cultural influence.

4. To condemn the practices of racism, discrimination, and intolerance, of which people of African descent in the Hemisphere are victims, and to urge states to take necessary measures to address and combat those practices.

5. To instruct the Department of International Law to continue with the implementation of projects for promoting the topic of African descent both within the Organization of American States and in its member states.

3. Although Canada supports the essence and objectives of this resolution, it opposes the references to the Declaration and Program of Action of Durban, adopted at the World Conference...

6. To instruct the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs to include on its agenda, prior to the forty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly, the issue of people of African descent in the Americas, and to continue promoting the exchange of successful experiences for the social inclusion of people of African descent.

7. To urge member states, in the design, execution, and evaluation of their laws and policies on persons of African descent, to consider enforcing and implementing the standards for the protection of African descendants.

8. To urge member states that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying, or acceding to, as appropriate, the inter-American human rights instruments, including the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance and the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance.

9. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... We reiterate our longstanding reservations and concerns with that exercise and the resulting conventions. We are concerned that some provisions of the conventions could undermine or are incompatible with international human rights law protections including those related to freedoms of expression and association. There is already a robust global treaty regime that provides comprehensive protections in this area. The Inter-American instrument runs the risk of creating inconsistencies with this global regime. as early as 2002, the Inter-American Juridical Committee articulated similar concerns, concluding that it was not advisable to negotiate a new convention in this area. The United States believes that – rather than promoting those new instruments -- the resources of the OAS and of its member states should be used to identify practical steps that governments in the Americas might adopt to combat racism, racial discrimination and other forms of discrimination and intolerance, including best practices in the form of national legislation and enhanced implementation of the global instruments.

3. ... against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001 and related processes contained in the preamble of this resolution. Instead of fostering concerted global action against racism, the 2001 Conference degenerated into a politicized forum which served to promote intolerance and anti-Semitism, rather than combat it. Canada firmly believes that the Durban process remains highly politicized to this day and that it has been unable to distance itself from its controversial past, including its open and divisive expressions of intolerance and anti-Semitism. While Canada disapproves of the reference to this process in this resolution, Canada will nevertheless continue to work in practical ways with the OAS and its member states towards addressing racism, promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, as well recognizing and promoting the rights of people of African descent in the Hemisphere.

AG/RES. 2848 (XLIV-O/14)

FOLLOW-UP ON THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION
AND ON THE INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR COOPERATION
IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the mandates of the Summits of the Americas with respect to the fight against corruption, the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption (MESICIC/CEP-II/doc.5/06 rev. 2), the “Recommendations of the Third Meeting of the Conference of States Parties of the MESICIC” (MESICIC/CEP-III/doc.4/10 rev. 1), and resolution AG/RES. 2786 (XLIII-O/13); and

EXPRESSING ITS SATISFACTION with the work carried out by the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism for Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC), which has, to date, enabled the adoption of reports on the first 20 states reviewed and the conduct of the first 25 on-site visits under the Fourth Round of Review,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the General Secretariat to continue, through the Department of Legal Cooperation of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs (hereinafter “Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC”), to provide technical secretariat services to the Conference of States Parties to the Follow-up Mechanism for Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) and to the Committee of Experts of the Mechanism.

2. To express once again its support for strengthening the MESICIC and, in that regard, to request the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC:

- a. to take, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Experts, the relevant steps for the preparation of the draft preliminary reports on Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Suriname, Belize, Haiti, Venezuela, The Bahamas, the United States, Antigua and Barbuda, and Saint Kitts and Nevis, which will be submitted to the Committee for consideration and approval prior to the next regular session of the General Assembly;
- b. to adopt, in accordance with the Methodology for Conducting On-site Visits, the relevant measures for on-site visits to be made, prior to the next regular session of the General Assembly, to Venezuela, The Bahamas, the United States, Antigua and Barbuda, and Saint Kitts and Nevis;

- c. to prepare, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Experts, the draft Hemispheric Report on the Fourth Round of Review, which will reflect the Committee's analyses, conclusions, and recommendations for that round and be submitted to the Committee for consideration and adoption at its twenty-fifth meeting, to be held in March 2015; and
- d. to continue promoting, in accordance with the methodology adopted by the Committee of Experts for dealing with the topic of collective interest on private-sector responsibility in preventing and combating corruption, the exchange of information among the States Parties to the MESICIC on regulatory developments, experiences, and best practices in this area.

3. To take note of the adoption by the Committee of Experts, at its twenty-second meeting, of the Second Progress Report on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, which reflects the advances made by the member states in this regard.

4. To request the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC that, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and Other Provisions of the Committee of Experts and based on the advances and pending measures described in the progress reports, it to continue to promote implementation of the recommendations made to member states on the basis of its review processes.

5. To request the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC to continue providing, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption, the necessary technical support for the implementation of that program, within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, and, in that regard, to continue:

- a. developing and executing the training program for the members of the Committee of Experts; encouraging the participation and contributions of civil society organizations in the activities of the Committee and of the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC, consolidating the Anticorruption Portal of the Americas, and disseminating, through the Anticorruption Bulletin and social networks, the developments occurring within the MESICIC;
- b. promoting broader cooperation among central authorities in the area of mutual legal assistance in corruption cases;
- c. promoting cooperation, exchanges of information, and the development of joint activities in areas related to transparency in public administration and to anticorruption efforts with other international organizations; and
- d. disseminating and encouraging states to make use of the "Model Law on the Declaration of Interests, Income, Assets and Liabilities of Persons Performing Public Functions" and the "Model Law to Facilitate and Encourage the Reporting of Acts of Corruption and to Protect

Whistleblowers and Witnesses,” the texts of which may be found in documents SG/MESICIC/doc.344/12 rev. 2 and SG/MESICIC/doc.345/12 rev. 2, respectively, adopted by the Committee of Experts at its twenty-first meeting.

6. To ask the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC, in compliance with the provisions of Chapter XII of the Recommendations of the Third Meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC, held in Brazil in December 2010, to continue providing the technical support necessary for the implementation of those recommendations, in accordance with the resources allocated in the Organization’s program-budget and other resources, and, in that regard, to continue consolidating the MESICIC as a forum for exchanges of information and mutual cooperation among its States Parties on best practices for the prevention and combat of corruption. Likewise, to instruct the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC and the Permanent Council to take the necessary measures for holding the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC in 2015.

7. To request the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC to continue to support mutual cooperation between the Mechanism and the Open Government Partnership.

8. To request the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC to promote the use by the States Parties to the MESICIC of the Hemispheric Network for Legal Cooperation on Criminal Matters (Criminal Matters Network) in the investigation and prosecution of acts of corruption.

9. To recognize the importance of asset recovery in successfully fighting corruption and to urge member states to strengthen, as appropriate, their actions, promote suitable regulatory and institutional mechanisms, and develop effective international cooperation, in order to prevent and detect transfers and to facilitate the recovery of assets that are proceeds of corruption offenses.

10. To request the General Secretariat to continue identifying sources of funding within the Organization of American States (OAS)—such as the Regular Fund—as well as sources of external funding—such as international and regional financial institutions and national government agencies, among others—for the adequate functioning of the MESICIC and, when applicable, for the full and effective implementation of its recommendations and of the activities of the countries at which such recommendations are directed, with a view to their implementation.

11. To encourage member states and other donors, including the Inter-American Development Bank, to consider contributing to the OAS specific fund “Inter-American Anti-Corruption Fund,” in accordance with Article 74 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat, in order to assist member states in implementing the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and the MESICIC country report recommendations, and to support the operations of the MESICIC, including its on-site visits.

12. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2849 (XLIV-O/14)

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS,
INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, INTER-AMERICAN JURIDICAL
COMMITTEE, AND JUSTICE STUDIES CENTER OF THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the “Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly 2013-2014” (AG/doc.5470/14 add. 1), in particular the section on the activities of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP);

RECALLING the resolutions assigned to the CAJP in the “List of Resolutions of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) for the Period 2007-2012 Classified by Thematic Areas as Identified by the Informal Working Group to Review the Mandates of the CAJP” (CP/CAJP/INF.188/13);

CONSIDERING that the programs, activities, and tasks set out in the resolutions within the purview of the CAJP help further the essential purposes of the Organization enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of American States;

REAFFIRMING the norms and principles of international law and those contained in the Charter of the Organization of American States;

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 2797 (XLIH-O/13), AG/RES. 2796 (XLIH-O/13), AG/RES. 2782 (XLIH-O/13), and AG/RES. 2806 (XLIH-O/13);

BEARING IN MIND that Article 54.f of the Charter of the Organization of American States establishes that the General Assembly has the power to consider, *inter alia*, the observations and recommendations presented by the Permanent Council on the reports of the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization, in accordance with the provisions of Article 91.f of the Charter; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The “Report of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs on the Member States’ Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights for 2013” (CP/CAJP-3265/14); the “Report by the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs on the Member States’ Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) for the Year 2013” (CP/CAJP-3256/14); the “Report of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) on the Observations and Recommendations of the Member States on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Juridical Committee to the General Assembly” (CP/CAJP-3262/14), and the “Report of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs on the Observations and Recommendations of the Member States on the 2013 Annual Report of the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA)” (CP/CAJP-3261/14),

all of which are contained in the “Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly 2013-2014” (AG/doc.5470/14 add. 1);

The “Annual Report of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to the Forty-fourth Regular Session of the General Assembly” (CP/doc.4965/14), as well as the presentation thereon by the President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Judge Humberto Sierra Porto, to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs on April 7, 2014;

The “Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to the Forty-fourth Regular Session of the General Assembly” (CP/doc.4964/14), as well as the presentation thereon by the President of the IACHR, Commissioner Tracy Robinson, to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) on April 23, 2014; and

The “Annual Report of the Inter-American Juridical Committee to the Forty-fourth Regular Session of the General Assembly” (CP/doc.4956/14), and the presentation given by Dr. David P. Stewart to the CAJP of the OAS Permanent Council on February 20, 2014; and

The annual report of the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA) to the forty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly (CP/doc.4985/14) and the presentation by Douglas Cassel, member of the JSCA Board of Directors, to the CAJP on April 23, 2014,

RESOLVES:

1. To renew to the Permanent Council and to the General Secretariat the applicable mandates contained in past resolutions of the General Assembly assigned to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) and mentioned in the preamble of this resolution.

2. To urge the member states of the Organization to continue contributing to the attainment of the objectives established in said resolutions through the development and execution of activities, the submission of reports, the exchange of information, the adoption of measures and policies, and cooperation, support, and mutual assistance; and to instruct the General Secretariat to provide necessary support to those ends.

3. To urge member states to consider the signature and ratification, as appropriate, of the American Convention on Human Rights and the other instruments of the system, including the acceptance of the binding jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, with a view to universalization of the inter-American human rights system (IAHRS).

4. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

I. Observations and recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights

5. To reaffirm its commitment to attain full financing of the IAHRs through the Regular Fund of the Organization of American States (OAS), without prejudice to the financing of the other mandates of the Organization. Until that commitment is fulfilled, to invite member states, observer states, and other institutions to continue making voluntary contributions, preferably not earmarked, in the framework of the 2011-2015 Guidelines of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. In that context, it also urges the member states to continue extending invitations for the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to hold sessions away from its seat.

6. To urge member states, permanent observers and other donors to contribute to the Victims' Legal Assistance Fund, and to call upon those states that have not yet reimbursed the Fund for costs incurred, to do so at their earliest convenience.

7. To urge the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to continue to hold training courses for justice sector operators and state officials, in order to promote the effective application of international human rights law at the domestic level.

8. To insist that it is the OAS General Secretariat that must bear the cost of translating into all the official languages the judgments and decisions issued by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, so as to ensure full and effective access to them for all inhabitants of the Hemisphere.

9. To thank Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Mexico, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for their voluntary contributions to the Court; as well as the permanent observers of Denmark, Norway, and Spain, which extend significant financing to the Court through cooperation projects.

II. Observations and recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)^{1/2/3/}

10. To reaffirm its commitment to attain full financing of the inter-American human rights system through the Regular Fund of the OAS, without prejudice to the financing of the other mandates of the Organization. Until that commitment is fulfilled, to invite member states, observer states, and other institutions to continue making voluntary contributions, preferably not earmarked, in the framework of the 2011-2015 Strategic Plan of the IACHR. In this context, member states are encouraged to continue inviting the IACHR to hold sessions away from its headquarters.

11. To take note of the new structure of the annual report of the IACHR, prepared in accordance with its Rules of Procedure, as amended in 2013.

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1. The Government of Nicaragua notes with concern the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights' continued use of Chapter IV to specifically target certain countries, thereby applying ...
 2. Ecuador has several objections to the Annual Report of the IACHR and it disapproves of the entire content of the 2013 Report of the Special Rapporteurship for Freedom of Expression, as it did the...
 3. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela rejects Chapter IV.b of the Annual Report of the IACHR, in that the criteria used in preparing it are absolutely discriminatory, discretionary, and subjective. ...

12. To take note of the observations and recommendations of member states on the Annual Report of the IACHR (CP/CAJP-3256/14) and to forward them to the Commission for possible publication.

13. To thank Argentina, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, and the United States; the UNHCR, Children's Villages, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Save the Children – Sweden, and the University of Notre Dame; as well as Denmark, Finland, France, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the European Union, which have made voluntary contributions and, through cooperation projects, extend significant financing to IACHR activities.

III. Observations and recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI)

14. To instruct the Permanent Council, through the CAJP, to examine the recent reports adopted by the CJI entitled "Sexual orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression" (CJI/doc.447/14), "General Guidelines for Border Integration" (CJI/doc.433/13 rev. 1), and Corporate Social Responsibility in the Field of Human Rights and the Environment in the Americas" (CJI/doc.449/14 rev. 1).

15. To further instruct the Permanent Council, through the CAJP, to give due consideration to the previously adopted reports entitled "Model Law on the Protection of Cultural Assets during Armed Conflicts" (CJI/doc.403/12 rev. 5), "Draft Model Law on Simplified Joint Stock Companies" [CJI/RES. 188 (LXXX-O/12)], and "Guide to Principles on Cultural Diversity in the Development of International Law" [CJI/RES. 185 (LXXX-O/12)].

16. To stress the importance of holding the Course on International Law organized each year in Rio de Janeiro by the CJI and the Department of International Law, the forty-first edition of which is to take place in August of this year.

17. To underscore the need to strengthen the administrative and budgetary support given to the CJI and to reaffirm the importance of the contacts that the Committee maintains with the Organization's political bodies.

IV. Strengthening of the activities of the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA)

18. To support and encourage the work of the JSCA in generating and disseminating new mechanisms and strategies for expanding access to justice in criminal and non-criminal areas.

19. To urge the JSCA to continue its fundraising efforts and to make a special appeal to member states and permanent observers for voluntary contributions to enable the JSCA to continue and deepen its work.

20. To request the Permanent Council to continue, through the CAJP , to include on its agenda a dialogue with the JSCA to consider the best ways to expand cooperation between member states and the Organization and its organs, on one hand, and the Center, on the other, in matters recommended by the states.

21. To approve the appointment of Jaime Arellano as Executive Director of the JSCA by its Board of Directors on November 15, 2013, pursuant to Articles 6 and 12 of the Statute of the JSCA.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... a double standard in its treatment of human rights in the region. The foregoing is incompatible with its task of promoting and protecting human rights, which must be carried out impartially. Hence our recommendation to do away with this chapter.

We also consider that the Commission's *sua sponte* reforms to its rules of procedure must be in keeping with the provisions set forth in the Convention and its Statute. as regards the conduct of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, we recommend that its use against certain countries for political ends be avoided and that it not adopt a double yardstick in its analyses to the detriment of certain states, nor omit their responses when presenting its reports.

2. ... content of the 2012 Report, because it is fraught with inaccuracies, arguments removed from reality, and bias in each and every paragraph of the section on Ecuador. Presenting documents such as this—lacking in methodological rigor and full of politicized views—calls into question the legitimacy of the IACHR, of the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, and, therefore, of the inter-American human rights system as a whole.

3. ... Chapter IV has been used as a tool for political finger-pointing and to discredit certain states in the eyes of public opinion, instead of contributing to the defense and protection of human rights. The Venezuelan State believes that the report should be prepared on a comprehensive and inclusive basis and present an overview of the human rights situation in the Hemisphere, identifying the progress made and the challenges remaining in all the states. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reaffirms its firm commitment to the promotion, protection, and defense of human rights.

AG/RES. 2850 (XLIV-O/14)

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 2716 (XLII-O/12), “Internally Displaced Persons,” and all its previous resolutions on the subject;

REITERATING the principles established in the Charter of the Organization of American States and in the Inter-American Democratic Charter, especially those referred to in its Chapter III, “Democracy, Integral Development, and Combating Poverty”;

EMPHASIZING that the states have the primary responsibility to respect, promote, and protect the human rights of all persons within their jurisdiction, including internally displaced persons, and to provide them with adequate and comprehensive protection and assistance, as well as to address, as appropriate, the causes of the internal displacement problem and to do so, when required, in cooperation with the international community;

RECALLING the obligations of member states under international human rights, humanitarian, and refugee law; and recognizing that the protection of internally displaced persons has been reinforced by the definition and consolidation of specific protection standards, in particular the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement prepared by the Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on internally displaced persons;

RECALLING ALSO that, according to those guiding principles, internally displaced persons are “persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border”;

EMPHASIZING the importance of implementing effective measures for preventing and avoiding forced internal displacement and its causes and for protecting and assisting persons affected by displacement, including the communities of origin and reception, during displacement and during return or resettlement and reintegration, including through the implementation of applicable international law by developing, for example, a national regulatory framework on the matter;

UNDERSCORING that to promote enhanced protection for internally displaced persons, comprehensive strategies and lasting solutions are needed, which include, among other aspects, a free and informed decision by internally displaced persons as to whether to return to their place of origin, to integrate in the place to which they were displaced, or to resettle elsewhere in the country; and

RECOGNIZING that internally displaced women and girls are in a particularly vulnerable situation by being exposed to new and heightened risks of violence, and mindful of the responsibility of states to further bolster their protection and assistance,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states to include, as appropriate, in their sectoral plans, policies, and programs, the special needs of internally displaced persons such as the loss of physical protection, the loss of livelihoods, and exposure to new risks, and of communities affected by internal displacement, in particular, in the preparation of programs on prevention of the diverse causes and consequences directly related to that displacement, including social and security policies and programs to foster development, fight poverty, and reduce the risk of natural disasters, in which the needs of receiving communities could be taken into account.

2. To urge member states to evaluate the advisability of incorporating into national legislation the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement prepared by the representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on internally displaced persons and applying them in the design and implementation of plans, policies, and support programs and for the protection of displaced persons, in compliance with international law and with special emphasis on their transparency, to attend to the specific needs of indigenous communities, communities of African descent, children, women, the elderly, farm workers, and persons with disabilities.

3. To urge member states to include a gender perspective in those sectoral plans, policies, and programs, in consideration of the special needs of internally displaced women and girls, and to begin processes to prepare budgets that take gender issues into account, in order to allocate sufficient resources to afford them comprehensive protection.

4. To urge member states to conduct gender-sensitive training programs for the police, military forces, judiciary, social workers, and other entities and organs with responsibilities for preventing and responding to gender-based violence, including sexual violence, in situations of displacement.

5. To call on member states to take the steps necessary to fight impunity in the connection with gender-based violence, including sexual violence, in an internal displacement context, particularly by preventing and promptly investigating, prosecuting, and punishing it, and by providing the judicial authorities and the medical sector with standard operating procedures that make swift intervention possible, as well as training and appropriate logistics for them to discharge their duties effectively.

6. In order to avert the internal displacement of persons, to encourage member states to address the factors that cause it and to establish preventive measures, such as early-warning systems and policies that mitigate the threat and the risk of displacement, bearing in mind that dialogue with all the actors involved is essential to the achievement of lasting solutions.

7. To urge member states, in keeping with their responsibility to internally displaced persons, based on comprehensive strategies and from a human rights and gender perspective, to commit to providing them with protection and assistance before and during displacement, through

competent institutions; and to invite member states to commit to seeking lasting solutions, including the safe, voluntary, and dignified return of internally displaced persons and their resettlement and reintegration, whether in their place of origin or in the receiving community.

8. To encourage member states, in responding to the needs of internally displaced persons and the communities affected by internal displacement, to consider the Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons and the Operational Guidelines on Human Rights and Natural Disasters prepared by the Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons; the document Protecting Internally Displaced Persons: A Manual for Law and Policymakers presented at the High-Level Conference “Ten Years of Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement—Achievements and Future Challenges,” and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015.

9. To encourage the member states and competent authorities to seek, as necessary, new and appropriate ways of providing protection and assistance to displaced persons, in keeping with the different needs of residents of urban or rural areas or persons living in camps in consultation with, and attending to the needs of, the persons and communities affected.

10. To urge member states to support and promote national and international initiatives for the gathering, updating, analysis, and dissemination of quantitative and qualitative data on internally displaced persons, ensuring that a gender-sensitive approach is used in this gathering and analysis process and is positively reflected in the design and execution of programs to benefit internally displaced persons.

11. To urge the member states to respond promptly and effectively to the needs of internally displaced persons in the event of natural disasters, including needs related to risk prevention, reduction, and mitigation, through domestic efforts, international cooperation, and, to the extent possible, dialogue with the internally displaced persons and the communities affected by internal displacement.

12. To urge the appropriate agencies of the United Nations and the inter-American system, as well as other humanitarian organizations and the international community, to help provide support and/or assistance, as requested by member states, in addressing the various factors that cause internal displacement and in protecting and assisting persons affected by internal displacement at all stages, where account should be taken of the Guiding Principles on strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance.

13. To include the item on the agenda of the General Assembly at its forty-sixth regular session. Execution of the activities contained in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2851 (XLIV-O/14)

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS:
SUPPORT FOR THE INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND
ORGANIZATIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY WORKING TO PROMOTE AND
PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING all previous resolutions adopted on the subject of “Human Rights Defenders: Support for Individuals, Groups, and Organizations of Civil Society Working to Promote and Protect Human Rights in the Americas,” including resolution AG/RES. 2789 (XLIH-O/13);

RECALLING ALSO the United Nations Declaration on the Rights and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;

RECALLING FURTHER the commitment of the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), within the framework of their domestic laws and in accordance with their international obligations, to respect, ensure, protect, and promote the fundamental rights and freedoms of human rights defenders;

REITERATING the support of the member states for the legitimate work that human rights defenders carry out, recognizing it as an essential contribution to efforts for:

- a. the observance, promotion, and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the strengthening of national systems for protection of human rights and the pursuit and administration of justice;
- b. ensuring adequate legal representation for persons and communities, including those that belong to groups that are most vulnerable and/or traditionally the target of discrimination, whose rights are threatened or violated; and
- c. the prevention of violence; the promotion of sustainable peace, security, and development; and the consolidation of democratic institutions in the Americas.

AFFIRMING that, to be effective, national and international strategies in the above areas must pay special attention to protecting the rights of human rights defenders;

EMPHASIZING that everyone has duties toward and within the community, in which alone the free and full development of his or her personality is possible;

REITERATING that “[e]veryone has the right, individually and in association with others, to solicit, receive and utilize resources for the express purpose of promoting and protecting human

rights and fundamental freedoms through peaceful means,”^{1/} in accordance with domestic law consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and other international obligations of the state in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

CONCERNED that situations persist in the Americas that directly or indirectly prevent or hinder the work of individuals, groups, or organizations working to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and jeopardize their security, personal integrity, and the exercise of all their fundamental rights and freedoms;

CONCERNED ALSO that, in some instances, measures governing national security, counterterrorism, association registration and functioning, and public security have been misused to incriminate human rights defenders or to undermine their work and safety in a manner contrary to international law;

APPLAUDING the legislative and structural measures that some OAS member states have adopted to safeguard the lives, freedom, and personal safety of human rights defenders, helping to create a more robust system of protection in the region; and

NOTING the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the office of its Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, in the promotion and protection of the fundamental rights and freedoms of human rights defenders,

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate its support for the work carried out at both national and regional level by human rights defenders, and to recognize their valuable contribution, *inter alia*, to the promotion and protection of, and respect for, human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Hemisphere.

2. To emphasize that, in view of the gender-specific roles and needs of women human rights defenders, the latter’s human rights should be accorded special attention to ensure that these women are fully empowered and that their rights are protected so as to enhance the effectiveness of the important activities that they carry out.

3. To condemn actions that may prevent or hinder, whether directly or indirectly, the work of human rights defenders in the Americas.

4. To encourage human rights defenders to continue their selfless work and to contribute to the enhancement of national systems for human rights and justice and to the strengthening of democracy, in accordance with each country’s constitutional and legal framework and the principles contained in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

1. United Nations Declaration on the Rights and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

5. To urge member states to:

- a. Continue or initiate, as the case may be, activities to educate and disseminate information to government officials at all levels and throughout the country, to society at large, and to the media, both public and private, so as to make them aware of the importance and validity of the work of human rights defenders and their organizations;
- b. Continue stepping up their efforts to adopt necessary measures to safeguard the lives, freedom, and personal safety of human rights defenders and their families, including effective emergency protection measures in the case of imminent threat or danger that include a gender perspective;
- c. Strengthen their national and subnational capacities, including through the allocation of adequate resources, to act promptly to address attacks on human rights defenders;
- d. Adopt or continue to adopt, as applicable, appropriate measures, in accordance with their domestic laws and their international obligations, in order to address the question of impunity for attacks, threats, and acts of intimidation, including cases of violence against women and girls and against human rights defenders and their families, ensuring that complaints are promptly investigated and addressed in a transparent, independent, and accountable manner, and so that, in all cases of human rights violations against human rights defenders, thorough and impartial investigations and proceedings continue to be carried out, appropriate punishments are applied, and appropriate reparations are made to victims;
- e. Ensure that applicable national law—including registration where applicable under national law—concerning human rights defenders and their organizations allows their work to be carried out in a free, transparent, and open political environment and in a manner consistent with applicable international human rights and humanitarian law;
- f. Harmonize their applicable domestic laws with applicable international law, in accordance with their acquired international obligations, in order to protect the work carried out by human rights defenders;
- g. Ensure that human rights defenders can perform their important function in a context of peaceful demonstrations, in accordance with national legislation consistent with the Charter of the United Nations, the Charter of the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and international human rights law and, in this regard, to ensure that no one is subjected to excessive and indiscriminate use of force; arbitrary arrest; torture and/or other forms of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment; forced disappearance; unwarranted restrictions of their rights to

freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and association; and/or abuses of process in civil or criminal proceedings, or to the threat of such acts;

- h. Promote the dissemination and implementation of the treaty and non-treaty instruments of the inter-American system and the decisions of its bodies on human rights matters, as well as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;
 - i. Consider the preparation and implementation of national plans to apply the principles contained in the United Nations declaration mentioned in the preceding paragraph and the recommendations contained in the reports on the situation of human rights defenders in the Americas prepared by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), for which purpose they may also request its advisory services and should include a gender perspective; and
 - j. Continue cooperating with and supporting the efforts of the IACHR and all its rapporteurships, including the Office of the Rapporteur for Human Rights Defenders.
6. To request the IACHR to:
- a. Continue to give due consideration to this matter and, in keeping with the indivisibility and interdependence of human rights and its Strategic Plan 2011-2015, to strengthen all its rapporteurships, including the Office of the Rapporteur for Human Rights Defenders; and
 - b. Continue to intensify its dialogue and cooperation with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders.
7. To instruct the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs to prepare and convene in the second half of 2014 a special meeting to exchange experiences, viewpoints, and good practices in connection with the subject matter of this resolution.
8. To include the item on the agenda of the General Assembly at its forty-sixth regular session. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2852 (XLIV-O/14)

PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the “Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly 2013-2014” (AG/doc.5470/14 add. 1), in particular as it pertains to the activities of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP);

RECALLING the resolutions assigned to the CAJP in the “List of Resolutions of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) for the Period 2007-2012 Classified by Thematic Areas as Identified by the Informal Working Group to Review the Mandates of the CAJP” (CP/CAJP/INF.188/13);

CONSIDERING that the programs, activities, and tasks set out in the resolutions within the purview of the CAJP help further the core purposes of the Organization enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of American States;

REAFFIRMING the norms and principles of international law and those contained in the Charter of the Organization of American States;

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 2728 (XLII-O/12) and AG/RES. 2791 (XLIII-O/13);

NOTING with concern the continuation in some parts of the world of persistent violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and reaffirming that all states have the basic responsibility to prevent their commission and recurrence and to avoid the impunity of their perpetrators, particularly by investigating, prosecuting, and punishing such violations, where applicable, within a framework of full respect for relevant judicial guarantees and due process;

REAFFIRMING the primary responsibility of states, through their national jurisdictions, to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community in a way consistent with international law, and bearing in mind the complementary nature of the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court in respect of the crimes for which they have jurisdiction;

CONVINCED that the Rome Statute and the International Criminal Court are effective instruments for consolidating international criminal law and for guaranteeing that international justice can help consolidate lasting peace;

WELCOMING WITH SATISFACTION the fact that 122 states have now ratified or acceded to the Rome Statute, among them 28 members of the Organization of American States (OAS), and that 16 member states have ratified or acceded to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court;

RECALLING the outcome of the Review Conference of the Rome Statute, held in Kampala, Uganda, in 2010;

MINDFUL of the importance of full and effective cooperation from states, international and regional organizations, and civil society, for the International Criminal Court to function effectively, as recognized in the Rome Statute;

UNDERSCORING the importance of the “Exchange of Letters for the establishment of a cooperation agreement with the International Criminal Court,” signed by the OAS General Secretariat and the International Criminal Court on April 18, 2011, and the importance of the cooperation agreement signed by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the International Criminal Court in April 2012;

RECALLING the outcome of the Working Meeting on the International Criminal Court, held at OAS headquarters on April 12, 2013, by the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs with support from the Department of International Law;

CONSIDERING that in 1997 the General Assembly adopted the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law, through resolution AG/RES. 1471 (XXVII-O/97), which was subsequently updated by resolution AG/RES. 2660 (XLI-O/11), and noting the “Report on the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law [AG/RES. 2791 (XLIII-O/13)] (Activities of the Department of International Law of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs in 2013)” (CP/CAJP/INF.211/14);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Department of International Law, through the Inter-American Program, has started implementing specific projects for institutional support to member states, in the areas of access to information, security interests, international arbitration, and private international law; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALSO the training activities that the OAS General Secretariat’s Department of International Law has been carrying out in various member states on the subject of promotion and protection of the human rights of indigenous peoples and people of African descent,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm to the Permanent Council and to the General Secretariat the applicable mandates contained in past resolutions of the General Assembly assigned to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) and mentioned in the preamble of this resolution; and to urge member states to continue contributing to the attainment of the objectives established in said resolutions through the development and execution of activities, the submission of reports, the exchange of information, the adoption of measures and policies, and cooperation, support, and mutual assistance; and to instruct the General Secretariat to provide necessary support to those ends.

2. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this

resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

I. Promotion of the International Criminal Court^{1/2/}

3. To renew its appeal to those member states that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as the case may be, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and its Agreement on Privileges and Immunities.

4. To remind those member states that are parties to said instruments of the importance of the promotion of their universality and to continue adopting the necessary measures to achieve their full and effective implementation, and to adopt measures to adjust their national legislation, including, where appropriate, regarding the inclusion of crimes within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court, international cooperation and judicial assistance, and the protection of and reparations for victims.

5. To welcome with satisfaction the cooperation and assistance provided to date to the International Criminal Court by those member states that are parties to the Rome Statute, by those member states that are not, and by international and regional organizations, and to urge them to continue their efforts to ensure cooperation with and assistance to the International Criminal Court in accordance with any applicable international obligations, particularly as regards arrest and delivery, presentation of evidence, protection and movement of victims and witnesses, and serving of sentences, so as to avoid the impunity of the perpetrators of crimes over which it has jurisdiction.

6. To urge those member states that are parties to the Rome Statute to support and promote the work of the International Criminal Court, in keeping with their obligations and to underscore the importance of the cooperation that states that are not parties to the Rome Statute can render to the International Criminal Court.

7. To encourage those member states that are parties to the Rome Statute to follow up specifically on the results of the Review Conference and on compliance with the promises made during that conference, and to give consideration to ratifying the amendments adopted.

8. To request the General Secretariat to report, prior to the forty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, on implementation of the cooperation measures set forth in the "Exchange of Letters for the establishment of a cooperation agreement with the International Criminal Court," signed by the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States and the International Criminal Court.

9. To request the Permanent Council to hold, prior to the forty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, a working meeting with support from the Department of International Law, which should include a high-level dialogue session among the permanent representatives of all member states to discuss, among other matters, measures that could strengthen cooperation with the

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1. The Government of Nicaragua views with concern the continuing systematic violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law in the world. ...
 2. The United States remains steadfastly committed to promoting the rule of law and supporting efforts to bring those responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide to justice. ...

International Criminal Court. The International Criminal Court, international organizations and institutions, and civil society will be invited to cooperate and participate in this working meeting.

II. Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law

10. To reaffirm the importance of, and its support for, the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law and to request the Department of International Law to continue carrying out the activities listed in the Program and report thereon each year to the CAJP.

11. To instruct the Department of International Law to continue its support, within the activities envisaged in the Program, to the member states with respect to the implementation of domestic laws on access to public information; continue its training of judges and other officials in effective application of international treaties on the execution of arbitral decisions and awards; and continue to raise awareness of the Model Law on Secured Transactions among member states.

12. To instruct the Department of International Law to promote among member states further development of private international law, in collaboration with agencies and organizations engaged in this area, among them the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), the Hague Conference on Private International Law, and the American Association of Private International Law (ASADIP).

13. To instruct the Department of International Law to continue, in the activities provided for under the Inter-American Program, to promote and raise awareness of the rights of people of African descent and indigenous peoples, and to promote the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance and the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance.^{1/}

14. To request that member states indicate to the Secretariat for Legal Affairs as soon as possible their interest in having regular meetings of the legal consultants to the ministries of foreign affairs and other senior officials responsible for international law issues in member states; the usefulness of preparing a directory of competent authorities for such matters; and the advisability of drafting guidelines on possible topics that could be addressed at such meetings.

3. The United States has consistently objected to the negotiation of new legally binding instruments against racism, racial discrimination and other forms of discrimination or intolerance ...

FOOTNOTES

1. ... At the domestic level, our criminal laws ascribe particular importance to this subject. Hence the criminalization of these offenses under Title XXII of Law No. 641 of 2007 (Criminal Code), the enforcement of which provisions are the exclusive responsibility of the Nicaraguan courts, as regards the call for states to consider acceding to or ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity is unable to support this resolution and enters its reservation thereto, given that, for the time being, conditions are not suited to our accession to the present Statute.

The Republic of Nicaragua bases its international relations on friendship, solidarity, cooperation, and reciprocity among states, and therefore desists from any kind of political, military, economic, cultural, or religious measure against them, while at the same time upholding the principles of nonintervention in the domestic affairs of states and peaceful solution of international disputes by means of the mechanisms available under international law.

2. While the United States is not a party to the Rome Statute, the United States recognizes that the International Criminal Court can play a key role in bringing those responsible for the worst atrocities to justice. To that end, to date we have provided specific support to the ICC in connection with its current investigations and prosecutions, consistent with U.S. law and policy. With respect to the amendments on the crime of aggression adopted at the Kampala Review Conference, the United States notes the differences between the crime of aggression and the crimes defined in Articles 6, 7, and 8 of the Rome Statute, including with respect the question of the extent to which it is appropriate or permissible to investigate and prosecute alleged offenses in domestic courts. See RC/Res.6, Annex III, Understanding 5. The United States understands that any OAS support rendered to the ICC will be drawn from specific-fund contributions rather than the OAS regular budget.

3. ... and reiterate our longstanding reservations and concerns with this and prior resolutions on the topic and does not endorse the texts that have resulted from these negotiations. We are concerned that some provisions of the conventions could undermine or are incompatible with international human rights law protections including those related to freedoms of expression and association. There is already a robust global treaty regime that provides comprehensive protections in this area. A regional instrument is not necessary and runs the risk of creating inconsistencies with this global regime. as early as 2002, the Inter-American Juridical Committee articulated similar concerns, concluding that it was not advisable to negotiate a new convention in this area. The United States believes that the resources of the OAS and of its member states would be better utilized by identifying practical steps that governments in the Americas might adopt to combat racism, racial discrimination and other forms of discrimination and intolerance, including best practices in the form of national legislation and enhanced implementation of existing international instruments. Such efforts should be aimed at bringing immediate and real-world protection against discrimination.

AG/RES. 2853 (XLIV-O/14)

STRENGTHENING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM OF JUDICIAL FACILITATORS

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The Charter of the Organization of American States, the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, and the American Convention on Human Rights, as they pertain to access to justice;

That expanding access to justice is fundamental for the full exercise of human rights and democratic governance; likewise, it is essential for successful citizen security strategies and for the elimination of poverty and inequality;

The work performed free of charge by thousands of judicial facilitators, who render assistance to justice administration bodies, inform the population about legal norms, provide advice, and facilitate friendly settlements as allowed by law; and

That the Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators strengthens national justice administration systems, helps prevent crime and violence, promotes a culture for the peaceful resolution of conflicts with legal relevance, and lessens litigation in conflict situations;

CONSIDERING the successful implementation of national judicial facilitator services in Argentina, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and Paraguay under agreements between their judicial bodies and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States through its Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators; and

RECALLING the decisions adopted by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 2703 (XLII-O/12),

RESOLVES:

1. To support the work of the Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators in helping judicial bodies and other institutions involved in the administration of justice in member states to establish national judicial facilitator services as well as in training justice operators.
2. To urge member states to consider the usefulness of participating in the Inter-American Judicial Facilitators Program so they can avail themselves of its benefits according to their own needs and within the sphere of competence they may be assigned.

3. To invite member states and permanent observers to make voluntary contributions to support the Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators.

4. To instruct the Permanent Council to entrust the study and follow-up of the topic of judicial facilitators to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs with a view to its inclusion on the agenda before the forty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly.

5. To urge the General Secretariat to continue assisting member states that ask to establish National Judicial Facilitator Services and to train their judicial personnel through the Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators.

6. To request the General Secretariat to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2854 (XLIV-O/14)

SUPPORT FOR THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND
ITS TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING:

The Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CIADDIS), adopted in Guatemala on June 7, 1999, which entered into force on September 14, 2001, and has been signed by 21 member states and ratified, to date, by 18 member states; and

Resolutions AG/RES. 2596 (XL-O/10), “Support for the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities,” and AG/RES. 2663 (XLI-O/11), AG/RES. 2731 (XLII-O/12), and AG/RES. 2785 (XLIII-O/13), “Support for the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities and its Technical Secretariat”;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the holding of the CARICOM High Level Ministerial Meeting on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Caribbean in Pétion-Ville, Haiti, on December 5 and 6, 2013, organized with support from the Organization of American States and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, at which the regulatory frameworks of the inter-American system for protection of the rights of persons with disabilities were presented and the Declaration of Pétion-Ville “Building a Disability-Inclusive Society For All” was adopted, with a view to designing a strategy for developing or enhancing existing mechanisms for the production, collection, and analysis of data on the population with disabilities in the Caribbean and for monitoring advances in inclusive education, employment, health, and accessibility for persons with disabilities;

HAVING SEEN the final report of the third special meeting of the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CEDDIS) (CP/CAJP/INF.214/14), held in San José, Costa Rica, on November 21 and 22, 2013;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the holding of the fourth special meeting of CEDDIS in Panama City, Panama, on May 28 and 29, 2014;

CONSIDERING:

The request made by the Technical Secretariat of CEDDIS to the States Parties to the CIADDIS that they submit their second compliance reports and the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (PAD); and

The recommendation made by CEDDIS in resolution CEDDIS/RES. 3 (IV-O/12), adopted at its fourth regular meeting, to increase the level of the forum for disabilities to that of a specialized inter-American committee or institute, in order to heighten the visibility of the issue, strengthen cooperation initiatives and programs at the hemispheric level, and have a greater impact on the implementation of the inter-American instruments on disabilities; and

RECOGNIZING:

The first regional diagnostic assessment of the exercise of legal capacity by persons with disabilities, adopted by CEDDIS at its third special meeting through resolution CEDDIS/RES. 1/13 (III-E/13), with a view to drafting an instruction manual on supports and safeguards to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities; and

The contributions by civil society during the dialogue with CEDDIS at its third special meeting, as well as the recommendations that were submitted on that occasion and will be considered at the next meeting of CEDDIS, in keeping with Article 23 of its Rules of Procedure,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate CARICOM on its commitment to reinforce measures aimed at achieving full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Caribbean, in view of the adoption of the Declaration of Pétion-Ville , and to invite the member states of that entity to join in the process of monitoring progress in the construction of inclusive societies at the hemispheric level through the presentation of their national reports on implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CIADDIS) and/or the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (PAD).

2. To encourage those member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) that are not parties to the CIADDIS to accede to and ratify it, in order to strengthen regional efforts toward the elimination of all forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities and encourage their full integration in all areas of society.

3. To request the Permanent Council to take note of the recommendation made by the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CEDDIS) in its resolution CEDDIS/RES. 3 (IV-O/12) to assess the viability of increasing the level of the forum for the consideration of disabilities in our region to a body similar to an inter-American committee or institute, bearing in mind the juridical, financial, and structural implications.

4. To commend CEDDIS on its rapporteur's findings in the first diagnostic assessment on the exercise of legal capacity by persons with disabilities, and to request the Secretary General to disseminate this document as widely as possible.

5. To reaffirm the importance of voluntary contributions to the Specific Fund for the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities

[CP/RES. 947 (1683/09)], created to supplement financing for the activities of CEDDIS and its Technical Secretariat.

6. To invite member states and permanent observers, as well as individuals and institutions, both public and private, national and international, to make contributions to said Fund, and to request the Secretary General to take steps to raise new resources for the Fund.

7. To thank the Governments of Chile, Colombia, and Peru for their recent financial contributions to the aforesaid Fund in 2013, and to acknowledge the contribution of the Government of Panama that enabled the definition of new parameters and the adoption of a new working method for following up on and monitoring progress in implementing the CIADDIS and the PAD.

8. To reiterate to the General Secretariat the request that it take steps to bring about progressive advancement toward accessibility for persons with disabilities to the facilities of the OAS, as well as to its information dissemination tools, including, *inter alia*, its documents, communications, and website, in accordance with the principle of nondiscrimination enshrined in the CIADDIS.

9. To reiterate to the General Secretariat that the greatest possible efforts must be made to mainstream a perspective of inclusion of persons with disabilities, from a rights standpoint, in all actions and decisions of the OAS, and to disseminate the objectives of CEDDIS as widely as possible, and, in this connection, to acknowledge the cooperative relations established with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for dissemination of the recommendations of CEDDIS on the exercise of legal capacity by persons with disabilities.

10. To thank the people and the Governments of Costa Rica and Panama for their generous hospitality and their steadfast and effective support, which contributed, respectively, to the success of the third and the fourth special meetings of CEDDIS.

11. To thank the member states that have presented their second compliance reports on the CIADDIS in accordance with the established procedures and deadlines and to encourage the States Parties that have not yet presented them to remit them in the course of this year to enable successful completion of the process of monitoring progress in implementing the Convention.

12. To instruct the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2855 (XLIV-O/14)

CONVOCATION OF A MEETING OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS ON
LAND RIGHTS, NATURAL RESOURCES, DEVELOPMENT, AND CONSULTATION:
EXPERIENCES AND CHALLENGES

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

REAFFIRMING the provisions and the essential purposes and principles regarding integral development identified in the Charter of the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and the Social Charter of the Americas;

RECOGNIZING the challenges of member states in dealing with social conflicts stemming from investment projects in the interests of integral development, as well as the efforts of member states in that regard;

AFFIRMING consultation and dialogue as important tools for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflicts that arise out of investment in development initiatives;

RECALLING its resolve to promote and facilitate opportunities for reflection and analysis through subregional, regional, and national forums to share information and exchange experiences on the promotion of dialogue and the effective management of social conflicts stemming from investment projects in the interests of integral development;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the role of the General Secretariat in support of member states' initiatives for developing institutional capacities to effectively deal with social conflicts stemming from investment projects, in the interests of integral development, democratic governance, and combating poverty, inequality, and social exclusion, including the creation of forums for the exchange of experiences, information, and lessons learned in the prevention and management of conflicts stemming from investment projects in the interests of integral development; and

HAVING SEEN resolution AG/RES. 2833 (XLIV-O/14) "Inclusive Dialogue for Effectively Dealing with Social Conflicts in Investments for Integral Development,"

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Permanent Council to convene a meeting of governmental experts to analyze the topic "Land Rights, Natural Resources, Development, and Consultation: Experiences and Challenges" in the first half of 2015, in order to exchange information and national experiences in that regard.

2. To accept with gratitude the offer by the Government of the Republic of Suriname to host the aforementioned meeting of governmental experts.

3. To request the General Secretariat to provide assistance in drafting the agenda for the aforesaid meeting of governmental experts.

4. To call upon member states to actively support the aforementioned meeting of governmental experts in keeping with their domestic laws, and to send their relevant authorities in the field.

5. To instruct the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States to offer the necessary support to prepare for and follow up on the aforementioned meeting of governmental experts.

6. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2856 (XLIV-O/14)

SUPPORT FOR THE PEACE PROCESS IN COLOMBIA

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

BEARING IN MIND that peace is a fundamental value in the region, in accordance with the principles established in the Charter of the Organization of American States;

RECOGNIZING the significant progress made in talks between the Government of President Juan Manuel Santos and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC);

REITERATING that the peace negotiations in that country constitute a historic opportunity for Colombia and the region as a whole; and

CONSIDERING the resolute support of the Organization of American States and the international community for efforts to achieve peace in Colombia,

RESOLVES:

1. To express its firm support for the efforts being made by the government of President Juan Manuel Santos and the Colombian people, endorsed by the international community, to reach a definitive agreement that puts an end to the armed conflict in which Colombia has been embroiled for decades.

2. To urge the people and Government of Colombia to persist in their efforts to attain stable and lasting peace for the good of Colombia and the region.

AG/RES. 2857 (XLIV-O/14)

PROCESS OF REFLECTION ON THE WORKINGS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS WITH A VIEW TO STRENGTHENING
THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEM

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 2761 (XLII-0/12), “Follow-Up on the Recommendations Contained in the Report of the Special Working Group to Reflect on the Workings of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights with a View to Strengthening the Inter-American Human Rights System,” adopted in Cochabamba, Bolivia; and resolution AG/RES. 1 (XLIV-E/13), “Results of the Process of Reflection on the Workings of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights with a View to Strengthening the Inter-American Human Rights System”;

REAFFIRMING operative paragraph 2 of resolution AG/RES. 1 (XLIV-E/13), which instructed the Permanent Council to continue the dialogue on the core aspects for strengthening the inter-American human rights system (IAHRS) with the participation of all involved parties;

REAFFIRMING ALSO the need for the states to continue strengthening the inter-American human rights system, in order to address the demands arising from the challenges faced by the region to ensure the full exercise of human rights, by improving its *modi operandi* and fostering its effectiveness and transparency, in the framework of a constructive dialogue with the organs and other actors of the system; and

UNDERSCORING the important consensus that exists among the states parties to the American Convention on Human Rights, the organs of the inter-American human rights system, and the General Secretariat regarding the need for universal adoption of the Convention, in order to achieve a balance between the rights and responsibilities of all the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS),

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm its commitment to strengthening the inter-American human rights system (IAHRS) and the process of reflection on the workings of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).
2. To express its satisfaction with the efforts undertaken by the states in promoting the universal adoption of the American Convention on Human Rights, to invite them to deepen their rapprochement and dialogue with all states that are not parties to it regarding the possibility of advancing toward universal adoption, and to commend the efforts of non-party states in that direction.
3. To request the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) to hold direct consultations with states that are not party to the Pact of San Jose and submit a report in

that regard to the Permanent Council, with technical and legal suggestions for their full participation in the IAHRs.

4. To continue supporting the holding of some IACHR sessions away from its headquarters and to urge member states to invite the Commission to hold such sessions taking into account the full participation of all member states and, in that context, to welcome the offers of Mexico, Uruguay, Paraguay, Chile, Haiti, and Panama to host those sessions.

5. To instruct the OAS Permanent Council to invite the IACHR to maintain a specific dialogue on the rapporteurships of the Commission in light of the main challenges in the region for ensuring the full exercise of human rights. That dialogue may include identifying, together with the Commission and other relevant actors, concrete proposals for achieving appropriate financing for all the rapporteurships, including the possibility of establishing a fund to receive voluntary contributions, with a view to enabling the rapporteurships to continue their activities until such time as the member states agree to finance the IAHRs in full.

AG/RES. 2858 (XLIV-O/14)

FUND FOR PEACE: PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF TERRITORIAL DISPUTES^{1/}

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 1756 (XXX-O/00) Fund for Peace: Peaceful Settlement of Territorial Disputes, through which a specific fund was established to provide member states of the Organization that so request with financial resources to assist with defraying the costs of proceedings previously agreed to by the parties for the peaceful resolution of territorial disputes among member states;

HAVING SEEN:

The “Report of the Fund for Peace: Peaceful Settlement of Territorial Disputes Pursuant to Resolution CP/RES. 781 (1257/00)” (CP/doc.4374/09); and

The section of the Annual Report of the Secretary General on the activities of the Fund for Peace in the period 2008-2009 “Peaceful Settlement of Territorial Disputes (Peace Fund)”; and

CONSIDERING:

That strengthening peace and security, preventing conflicts, and peacefully resolving disputes are among the essential purposes of the Organization of American States, as established in its founding Charter; and

That border and territorial disputes can be a contentious and unnecessary barrier to economic and social development; regularly frustrate trade, environmental protection, security, and law enforcement; and have the potential of leading to armed conflict,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Secretary General to continue to promote the raising and mobilization of funds from member states, permanent observers, other states, international financial institutions, national and international organizations, and other entities and donors to finance the Peace Fund, in particular the Belize/Guatemala Sub-Fund.

2. To urge member states to use the Peace Fund as an effective financial tool for peacefully resolving conflicts through mechanisms envisaged in the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), such as direct negotiation, good offices, mediation, investigation, and conciliation.

1. The Republic of El Salvador acknowledges the efforts and contributions of the OAS Peace Fund and at the same time reiterates its commitment to the mechanisms for the peaceful settlement ...

3. To request the General Secretariat to continue to strengthen its knowledge and experience in the area of peaceful settlement of territorial disputes through the Secretariat for Political Affairs, under which the Peace Fund is administered pursuant to resolution CP/RES. 781 (1257/00).

4. To acknowledge that the Inter-American Peace Forum operates under the Peace Fund and contributes to the promotion of a culture of peace in OAS member states.

FOOTNOTE

1. ... of disputes, in accordance with the provisions of international law, its domestic legislation, and specific agreements on the subject.

AG/RES. 2859 (XLIV-O/14)

TELECOMMUNICATIONS/INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Resolution AG/RES. 2765 (XLIIO-O/13), “Support from CITEI for the Implementation of the Outcomes of the Sixth Summit of the Americas and the High-Level World Conferences held in 2012 and in Preparation for International Telecommunication Events for the 2013-2014 Cycle,”^{1/2/} by which the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) expressed its support for the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Assembly of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEI), as well as its interest in the member states of the Organization being represented at that meeting by their highest-level governmental telecommunication authorities; and

That from February 10 to 13, 2014, the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Assembly of CITEI was held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, where the Declaration of Santo Domingo was adopted;

CONSIDERING:

That CITEI has worked in several priority activities for the period 2010-2013, which included roaming; reducing e-waste; promoting greater international cooperation in ensuring the security and robustness of international telecommunication networks; calling for greater investment in broadband infrastructure; improving access to emergency services; recommending a model for developing a national strategy to mitigate online risks to children; spectrum management and monitoring; and advancing preparation of inter-American proposals for the World Radiocommunication Conference, the World Telecommunication Development Conference and the Plenipotentiary Conference; and

That on February 10, 2014, a strategic dialogue on “Broadband and Internet Development in the Americas” was held with a unique audience mix, including ministers, regulators, industry CEOs, heads of international organizations, and academic leaders considering the importance of ensuring that the potential of broadband connectivity and the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies (ICTs), are available to all; and

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1. The Republic of Ecuador enters its express reservation to references to the Sixth Summit of the Americas, held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, ...
 2. The Governments of Nicaragua and Ecuador consider that the reference to the Summit in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, and the appeal to strengthen the so-called “Summit of the Americas” ...

RECOGNIZING:

That, while in recent years considerable progress has been made in access to information and communication technologies in some areas, the digital divide persists in many member states, and that there are significant challenges due to the fact that less than 60.8 percent of the population in the Americas uses the Internet;

That information and communication technologies present new opportunities and challenges, and that the establishment of national telecommunication policy and effective regulatory frameworks that promote the sustainable development of telecommunications/ICT services can foster economic growth, competitiveness, access to information and knowledge, and social inclusion;

That it is necessary to prepare proposals coordinated at the regional level to be presented at international forums on matters for determining the strategy for telecommunications/ICT development in the region if the shared objectives of the member states in this area are to be achieved;

The pivotal role of the OAS in promoting development and that information and communication technologies have the potential to provide new solutions to development challenges and can foster economic growth, competitiveness, access to information and knowledge, and social inclusion; and

That the OAS, through CITELE, is in an ideal position and has the necessary experience to serve as a forum for coordination, debate and harmonization of national and regional telecommunication strategies and policy, as well as information exchange in this area,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate and thank the Government of the Dominican Republic for successfully hosting the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Assembly of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITELE).

2. To endorse the Declaration of Santo Domingo, adopted on February 13, 2013 (see Annex), which is an integral part of this resolution.

3. To urge CITELE to continue coordinating efforts to develop and improve telecommunications/ information and communication technologies (ICTs) and to continue to provide a platform where policymakers, regulators, private-sector representatives, researchers, academics, and other interested parties can exchange views, experiences, and best practices in this area for the establishment and implementation of sustainable national policies, strategies, and plans.

4. To foster cooperation, among member states on telecommunication/ICT development issues, by providing through CITELE the forum for building consensus on telecommunications/ICT technical and policy issues for international conferences.

5. To urge the member states to participate in the activities of CITELE in order to ensure regional representation in debates.

6. To instruct the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States to continue providing CITEI the financial support necessary to ensure continuity in the implementation of its mandates.

7. To request that CITEI report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... on April 14 and 15, 2012, without prejudice to the contents approved by Ecuador in other negotiation contexts, as appropriate.

2. ... are inappropriate, in that during that event, the Heads of State and Government were unable to consider or adopt the Political Declaration, which reflected the common will of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for the sister republic of Cuba to participate unconditionally and on a footing of sovereign equality. We reaffirm that a “Summit of the Americas” cannot be held without the presence of Cuba. The mandates and operative paragraphs on the core themes were part of the Political Declaration and as the latter were not adopted, neither were the former. For that reason, Nicaragua and Ecuador disagree with making references to these documents and mandates that were not adopted.

ANNEX

DECLARATION OF SANTO DOMINGO

February 13, 2014

We, the representatives of the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), gathered at the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Assembly of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from February 10 to 13, 2014,

BEARING IN MIND:

The importance of renewing our commitment to achieving the development targets and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals;

That the Heads of State and Government, at the Sixth Summit of the Americas,^{1/2/} defined “access to and use of information and communication technologies,” “integration of physical infrastructure in the Americas,” and “disaster risk reduction and management” as three of the five main mandates of the Sixth Summit of the Americas, and that these are integral parts of the core mandate of CITEL;

That the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas and Plan of Action of Quito identify the contribution of ICTs to education, health, employment, culture, and economic development, among others; and

That the Heads of State, Ministers, heads of regional organizations, and high-level representatives of the private and academia sectors, at the Connect Americas Summit, held in 2012, reaffirmed the importance of the inclusion of the many stakeholders on issues such as broadband infrastructure, digital inclusion, and the role of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in public safety,

CONSIDERING:

That the OAS General Assembly:

- a) Established CITEL in 1994 as an autonomous and decentralized entity to serve as the leading advisory body of the OAS in all matters relating to telecommunications/ICTs in the Hemisphere;

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1. The Republic of Ecuador enters its express reservation to references to the Sixth Summit of the Americas, held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, ...
 2. The Governments of Nicaragua and Ecuador consider that the reference to the Summit in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, and the appeal to strengthen the so-called “Summit of the Americas” are inappropriate, ...

- b) In resolution AG/RES. 2702 (XLII-O/12), instructs CITELE “to remain a forum for dialogue, coordination, and cooperation in the telecommunication area in the Hemisphere and to maintain a high level in providing technical assistance and capacity building in the member states”;
- c) In resolution AG/RES. 2765 (XLIII-O/13), emphasized that the core competencies of CITELE in the field of ICTs, such as assistance in bridging the digital divide; regional and international cooperation; and radio spectrum management are of crucial importance in building the information society; and urged CITELE to promote the development, coordination, and implementation of strategies, as applicable, in order to expand the use of ICTs, with support from the private sector and social actors of the Hemisphere, in accordance with commitments undertaken at the Sixth Summit of the Americas;
- d) In resolution AG/RES. 2765 (XLIII-O/13), refers to the fact that CITELE will promote the preparations of the Americas for the 2014 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-14), the 2014 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-14), and the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15), as well as the 2016 World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-16); and
- e) That CITELE is recognized by the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference [resolution 58 (Guadalajara, 2010)] as the principal regional telecommunication organization of the Americas,

RECOGNIZING:

- a) That active participation in the “digital economy” through the advent of telecommunications/ICTs is essential in promoting economic growth, competitiveness, and access to knowledge through information, contributing to the eradication of poverty and the integration of all countries;
- b) That telecommunications/ICTs are the most efficient and effective instruments in enabling ample access for all to information and education and in allowing for freedom of speech and expression, which are essential components to the promotion of democracy, the protection of human rights, the assurance of security and the fostering of integral development and prosperity in the Hemisphere, the four pillars of the Organization of American States (OAS);
- c) That CITELE’s activities on telecommunications/ICTs from 2010 to 2014 have directly contributed to the implementation of the four pillars the OAS;
- d) That public policies must be adopted that are aimed at resolving the problems that affect our people, particularly women, utilizing information and communication technologies as a means of implementing those policies, in accordance with the Santo Domingo Consensus adopted at the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in 2013;

- e) That telecommunication/ICTs are essential components of early-warning disaster prevention and disaster-risk reduction systems, and that telecommunication/ICTs can greatly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of disaster management and mitigation; and
- f) That CITEL approved 13 inter-American proposals for the 2010 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-10), seven inter-American proposals for the 2010 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-10), more than 200 inter-American proposals for the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-12), 14 inter-American proposals for the 2012 World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-12), and 39 inter-American proposals to the World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT-12),

DECLARE:

1. That we reaffirm our support for the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) as the leading intergovernmental organization of the Organization of American States (OAS) in all matters relating to telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs).

2. That, in order to fulfill its mandate, purposes and objectives, CITEL is fully dependent on and cannot exist as it is without the annual Regular Fund budget from the OAS.

3. That CITEL must continue to strive, within its mandate, to contribute directly to the implementation of the four pillars of the OAS.

AGREE:

1. To strengthen the role of CITEL as the principal intergovernmental organization entity for telecommunications/ICTs.

2. To identify, promote, and implement measures aimed at ensuring the financial and operational sustainability of CITEL.

3. To promote greater participation by the member states and associate members of CITEL, promoting the incorporation of new actors related to the telecommunications/ICT sector.

4. To promote, in the framework of CITEL, the drafting of recommendations and best practices/principles that promote issues for the benefit of telecommunication service users.

5. To strengthen cooperation in formulating strategies for the development and deployment of broadband, in order to promote connectivity and the social, economic, and cultural development of our peoples.

6. To devote special attention to the most disadvantaged, remote, and/or hard-to-access populations, persons with disabilities, older persons, women, children, and indigenous peoples, with the aim of digital inclusion and ensuring that telecommunications/ICTs facilitate their development.

7. To promote cooperation within the OAS with the aim of optimizing resources and strengthening the coordination of telecommunications/ICT-related projects.

8. To foster and strengthen regulatory frameworks that promote competition, investment, innovation, users' rights, and public-private partnerships.

9. To identify measures to promote the affordability and transparency of international roaming services, focusing especially on the realities and needs of border areas.

10. To promote the most effective ways to support regional cooperation in order to enhance cybersecurity and protect children on the Internet.

11. To promote the development of strategies that recognize telecommunications/ICT infrastructure as a determining factor in natural-disaster prevention and mitigation, rescue and relief, and reconstruction actions.

12. To promote access to broadband in order to reduce the technological gap among and within societies of the Hemisphere, placing special emphasis on the reduction of costs of international Internet connectivity for landlocked developing countries and developing small island states.

13. To promote the interconnection of international networks through national and regional traffic exchange points in order to improve quality and increase connectivity and network resilience, promoting competition and the reduction of international telecommunication interconnection costs.

14. To promote the creation of local content that facilitates growing use of broadband access, promoting cultural exchange and the digital inclusion of all peoples.

15. To strengthen CITEL's training program, which is conducted in coordination with regional training centers, the Centre of Excellence for the Americas of the International Telecommunication Union, the private sector, and regional and subregional organizations, through the use of advanced education and research networks and the establishment of Caribbean networks, and with other civil society entities.

16. To continue strengthening cooperation and collaboration with other pertinent regional and subregional organizations in the telecommunications/ICT area in the Americas and with organizations outside the region.

In witness whereof, the delegates of the OAS member states participating in the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Assembly of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission hereby adopt this Declaration in the city of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on February 13, 2014.

Argentina
Canada
Costa Rica
El Salvador
Haiti

Brazil
Colombia
Dominican Republic
Guatemala
Honduras

Jamaica
Nicaragua
Paraguay
United States of America

Venezuela

Mexico
Panama
Peru
Uruguay

FOOTNOTES

1. ... on April 14 and 15, 2012, without prejudice to the contents approved by Ecuador in other negotiation contexts, as appropriate.

2. ... in that during that event, the Heads of State and Government were unable to consider or adopt the Political Declaration, which reflected the common will of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for the sister republic of Cuba to participate unconditionally and on a footing of sovereign equality. We reaffirm that a “Summit of the Americas” cannot be held without the presence of Cuba. The mandates and operative paragraphs on the core themes were part of the Political Declaration and as the latter were not adopted, neither were the former. For that reason, Nicaragua and Ecuador disagree with making references to these documents and mandates that were not adopted.

AG/RES. 2860 (XLIV-O/14)

FINANCING OF THE 2015-2016 PROGRAM-BUDGET OF THE ORGANIZATION

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

The Report of the Preparatory Committee to the General Assembly (AG/doc.5431/14);

The Report of the Chair of the Subcommittee on Administrative and Budgetary Matters of the Preparatory Committee of the General Assembly (AG/CP/Sub.AAP-386/14) on the financing of the 2015-2016 program-budget of the Organization;

The annual report of the Board of External Auditors (CP/doc.4991/14) presented to the Permanent Council on May 21, 2014;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That, in accordance with Articles 54.e and 55 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, the General Assembly approves the program-budget of the Organization and establishes the basis for setting the quota that each government is to contribute to the maintenance of the Organization, taking into account the respective countries' ability to pay and their determination to contribute in an equitable manner;

That the General Assembly, at its thirtieth regular session, in resolution AG/RES. 1757 (XXX-O/00), approved the measures to encourage the timely payment of quotas and has since modified those measures by way of resolutions AG/RES. 2157 (XXXV-O/05) and AG/RES. 1 (XLII-E/11) rev. 1;

That resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXIV-E/07), adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth special session, approved the method for calculating the scale of quotas for financing the Regular Fund of the Organization; and

That, according to the method established by resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXIV-E/07), the quota percentages of the member states for the years 2015-2017 have been assigned; and

CONSIDERING:

That democracy, human rights, integral development, and multidimensional security are pillars of the Organization;

That, by resolution AG/RES. 1 (XLV-E/13), the General Assembly instructed the Subcommittee on Administrative and Budgetary Matters to consider a proposal to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth regular session, to be held in June 2014, to establish the overall budget level and the sources of financing for the 2015 program-budget and a tentative overall budget level figure and sources of financing for the second year, 2016, pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 2774 (XLIII-O/13), including quota income, interest and rental income; contributions for technical supervision and administrative support from the Special Multilateral Fund of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (FEMCIDI) and from trust and specific funds; and all other miscellaneous income; and that the overall budget level would include a proposal to cover the cost-of-living and statutory increases;

That the General Assembly established in resolution AG/RES. 1 (XLV-E/13) that the total expenditure on personnel (object 1) should not exceed 64.38 percent of the overall budget level for the 2015-2016 Regular Fund program-budget (also sometimes referred to as “the indicative figure”), including any statutory increases that might be required;

That it is necessary to establish the overall budget level and the sources of financing for the 2015 program-budget and a tentative overall budget level figure and sources of financing for the second year, 2016, pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 2774 (XLIII-O/13), which will be adopted by the General Assembly at a special session to be held no later than October 29, 2014;

That, based on Article 80 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, the General Secretariat shall submit to the Permanent Council a proposed budget for use of the indirect cost recovery (ICR) resources, which shall be based on projected revenue equivalent to 90 percent of the average ICR obtained in the three years immediately preceding the year in which the program-budget is adopted, and that the General Assembly shall also adopt the ICR budget;

That the Reserve Subfund of the Regular Fund lacks sufficient resources to finance any expenditures in excess of the total income received during the current fiscal year; and

That further work remains to be carried out on streamlining mandates, developing a strategic vision for the Organization, and implementing the management modernization initiative currently being considered by the member states,

RESOLVES:

1. To assess the quotas through which the member states will finance the Regular Fund of the Organization for 2015 and the assessments for income tax reimbursements in keeping with the methods adopted in resolutions AG/RES. 1 (XXXIV-E/07) and AG/RES. 41 (I-O/71), respectively, using the scale and amounts that appear in Annex A, “Regular Fund Quota Assessments for 2015.”

2. To set the overall budget level of the 2015 Regular Fund program-budget at US\$84,324,100 and to finance it as follows:

- a. Net contributions of member states in the form of quota payments to the Regular Fund totaling US\$81,906,500, computed as follows:

- i. Total gross assessments of US\$82,440,400 apportioned according to the methodology for calculating the scale of quota assessments adopted in resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXIV-E/07);
 - ii. A reduction of US\$533,900 in prompt payment discounts accredited pursuant to the measures to encourage the prompt payment of quotas adopted by means of resolution AG/RES. 1757 (XXX-O/00), as amended by AG/RES. 2157 (XXXV-O/05) and AG/RES. 1 (XLII-E/11) rev 1;
 - b. Contribution of US\$117,600 from the Special Multilateral Fund of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (FEMCIDI) to the Regular Fund for technical supervision and administrative support, in keeping with Article 80 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat, which contribution, according to the FEMCIDI Statutes, will be up to 15 percent of the net amount approved in 2014 for execution in 2015;
 - c. Income of US\$1,500,000 for technical supervision and administrative support of the trust funds and specific funds; and
 - d. Other income of US\$800,000 for, *inter alia*, interest and refunds.
3. To set the overall expenditure ceiling of the Indirect Cost Recovery Fund account at US\$5,250,000, which excludes the transfer of US\$1,500,000 to the Regular Fund as established in paragraph 2.c above, in accordance with the General Standards, provided that said amount is actually collected.
4. To set the tentative overall budget-level figure for year 2016 at US\$84,324,100.
5. To request the Board of External Auditors, in consultation with the CAAP, to prepare a report on the status of the Organization's financial situation, based on the most recent quarterly resource management and performance reports prior to the transition period and election of a new OAS Secretary General, as well as other information that the Board might consider relevant, to be presented to the Permanent Council 30 days before the election, subject to availability of financial and other resources.



TABLE A
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
REGULAR FUND
REGULAR FUND QUOTA ASSESSMENTS FOR 2015

Member States	Assessed Percentage	Quota Assessment	Tax Reimbursement	^a Credits	Total
Antigua and Barbuda	0.022%	18,200			18,200
Argentina	2.400%	1,987,200			1,987,200
Bahamas	0.049%	40,600			40,600
Barbados	0.034%	28,200	12,000 ^b		40,200
Belize	0.022%	18,200			18,200
Bolivia	0.056%	46,400			46,400
Brazil	12.427%	10,289,300			10,289,300
Canada	10.583%	8,762,500		292,983	8,469,517
Chile	1.347%	1,115,300		29,097	1,086,203
Colombia	1.311%	1,085,500			1,085,500
Costa Rica	0.230%	190,400		3,606	186,794
Dominica	0.022%	18,200			18,200
Dominican Republic	0.317%	262,500			262,500
Ecuador	0.322%	266,600			266,600
El Salvador	0.086%	71,200			71,200
Grenada	0.022%	18,200			18,200
Guatemala	0.145%	120,100			120,100
Guyana	0.022%	18,200			18,200
Haiti	0.026%	21,500			21,500
Honduras	0.042%	34,800			34,800
Jamaica	0.070%	58,000			58,000
Mexico	6.788%	5,620,300		202,656	5,417,644
Nicaragua	0.026%	21,500			21,500
Panama	0.176%	145,700		1,289	144,411
Paraguay	0.075%	62,100		1,296	60,804
Peru	0.860%	712,100			712,100
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.022%	18,200			18,200
Saint Lucia	0.022%	18,200			18,200
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.022%	18,200			18,200
Suriname	0.026%	21,500			21,500
Trinidad and Tobago	0.135%	111,800		2,936	108,864
United States	59.470%	49,240,000	4,500,000 ^b		53,740,000
Uruguay	0.247%	204,500			204,500
Venezuela	2.144%	1,775,200			1,775,200
Subtotal	99.568%	82,440,400	4,512,000	533,863	86,418,537
Cuba ^c	0.431%	356,900			356,900
TOTAL	99.999%	82,797,300	4,512,000	533,863	86,775,437

a. Represents 1% of 2014 quota assessment if full payment of 2014 quota was received by March 31, 2014, plus 2% of any payment received before February 28, 2014 and 3% if received by January 31, 2014.

b. The amount shown is estimated and may differ from the actual amount billed.

c. Shown only to establish the percentage corresponding to each member state.

AG/RES. 2861 (XLIV-O/14)

INCREASING AND STRENGTHENING THE PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND
SOCIAL ACTORS IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN
STATES AND IN THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolution AG/RES. 2773 (XLIII-O/13), “Increasing and Strengthening the Participation of Civil Society and Social Actors in the Activities of the Organization of American States and in the Summits of the Americas Process”;

RECALLING that participation by civil society and other social actors in the activities of the Organization of American States (OAS) should take place in a context of close collaboration among the political and institutional bodies of the Organization and in compliance with the provisions of the Charter of the Organization of American States and resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), “Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities”;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the “Strategies for Increasing and Strengthening Participation by Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities” adopted by Permanent Council resolution CP/RES. 840 (1361/03) and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 1915 (XXXIII-O/03), which requested “the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC) to follow up on these strategies; to evaluate their implementation; and, if appropriate, to propose amendments to them or new mechanisms for increasing and strengthening participation by civil society organizations in OAS activities”;

CONSIDERING that the Summits of the Americas process encourages full participation by civil society and other social actors and that, in the Declaration of Nuevo León, the Heads of State and Government undertook to institutionalize meetings with civil society and with the academic and private sectors; and that through resolution AG/RES. 2315 (XXXVII-O/07), “Participation of Workers’ Representatives in Activities of the Organization of American States,” the ministers of foreign affairs agreed to hold a dialogue with workers’ representatives, recognized as such by virtue of national law or practice, prior to the inaugural sessions of the General Assembly and the Summits of the Americas, so that said representatives may make recommendations and proposals for initiatives related to the theme of the General Assembly or the Summit of the Americas and directed toward the member states and the OAS;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Declaration of Mar del Plata recognizes the pivotal role that the OAS plays in coordinating civil society participation in the Summits of the Americas process;

UNDERSCORING that, in paragraph 94 of the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain, the Heads of State and Government committed “to continue encouraging the participation of our peoples, through the engagement of our citizens, communities and civil society in the design and execution of development policies and programs, by providing technical and financial assistance, as

appropriate, and in accordance with national legislation to strengthen and build their capacity to participate more fully in the inter-American system”;

RECOGNIZING the participation of civil society and social actors in the Sixth Summit of the Americas,^{1/2/} held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on April 14 and 15, 2012;

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 2772 (XLIII-O/13), “Support for and Follow-up to the Summits of the Americas Process,” which instructed the Permanent Council to continue to promote and facilitate the participation of social actors, including civil society, labor organizations, indigenous groups, the private sector, and youth, in the Summits of the Americas process and in activities related to topics assigned to the OAS by that process, as well as the efforts of member states to foster such participation;

CONSIDERING that Articles 6 and 26 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter state, respectively, that “it is the right and responsibility of all citizens to participate in decisions relating to their own development. This is also a necessary condition for the full and effective exercise of democracy. Promoting and fostering diverse forms of participation strengthens democracy,” and that “the OAS will continue to carry out programs and activities designed to promote democratic principles and practices and strengthen a democratic culture in the Hemisphere, bearing in mind that democracy is a way of life based on liberty and enhancement of economic, social, and cultural conditions for the peoples of the Americas. The OAS will consult and cooperate on an ongoing basis with member states and take into account the contributions of civil society organizations working in those fields”;

CONSIDERING ALSO that the Social Charter of the Americas recognizes the importance of citizen participation for social development, with Articles 6 and 34, respectively, establishing that “[t]he individual is at the center, as principal participant and beneficiary, of an inclusive, just, and equitable economic development process” and “[m]ember states will foster conscious and creative public participation in their development process”;

NOTING the establishment by resolution CP/RES. 864 (1413/04) of the Specific Fund to Support the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities and in the Summits of the Americas Process, whose purpose is to support participation by civil society organizations and other social actors in OAS activities, including the dialogue among heads of delegation of member states, the Secretary General, and civil society organization representatives and other social actors, which has been included on the draft schedule for regular sessions of the General Assembly as a regular activity before the inaugural session, as established in resolution AG/RES. 1915 (XXXIII-O/03) “Increasing and Strengthening Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolution AG/RES. 2395 (XXXVIII-O/08), “Increasing and Strengthening Civil Society Participation in the Activities of the Organization of American States and in the Summits of the Americas Process,” which instructed the General Secretariat to develop a

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1. The Republic of Ecuador enters its express reservation to references to the Sixth Summit of the Americas, held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on April 14 and 15, 2012, ...
 2. The Governments of Nicaragua and Ecuador consider that the reference to the Summit in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, and the appeal to strengthen the so-called “Summit of the Americas” ...

strategy for a coordinated approach to encourage civil society participation in OAS activities, for consideration by the member states;

RECOGNIZING the importance of participation by civil society organizations and other social actors in consolidating democracy and social development in all member states; and

NOTING the contributions and recommendations suggested by civil society organizations and other social actors at the Eleventh Hemispheric Forum with Civil Society and Social Actors that took place on April 24, 2014, on the theme of the forty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly (“Development with Social Inclusion”) and the priorities on the inter-American agenda, as well as the comments received by the OAS General Secretariat on the draft Declaration,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the commitment and will of the member states and the Organization of American States (OAS) to continue strengthening and implementing effective mechanisms and concrete actions for participation by civil society and other social actors in the activities of the OAS and in the Summits of the Americas process.

2. To instruct the Permanent Council, the Inter-American Council for Integral Development, and the General Secretariat to continue, in coordination with all organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS, to continue facilitating the implementation of the strategies for increasing and strengthening participation by civil society organizations and other social actors in OAS activities adopted by the Permanent Council in resolution CP/RES. 840 (1361/03) and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 1915 (XXXIII-O/03), “Increasing and Strengthening Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities.”

3. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue to promote and facilitate participation by civil society and other social actors in the Summits of the Americas and in the activities undertaken by the OAS as a result of the Summits of the Americas process, as well as efforts by the member states to foster said participation.

4. To continue to actively support and promote the registration of civil society organizations and other social actors and their participation in OAS activities, and in its organs, agencies, and entities, with the support of the General Secretariat and in accordance with resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), “Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities.”

5. To encourage all member states, permanent observers, and other donors, as defined in Article 74 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat and in other rules and regulations of the Organization, to consider contributing to the Specific Fund to Support the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities and in the Summits of the Americas Process, in order to sustain and promote the effective participation of civil society organizations and other social actors in OAS activities in accordance with the goals set by the General Assembly and by the Heads of State and Government in the Summits of the Americas process, including the dialogue among the heads of delegation of the member states, the Secretary General, and the representatives of civil society organizations.

6. To continue to urge member states to:
 - a. Participate in the dialogue of heads of delegation with representatives of civil society organizations in the context of General Assembly sessions and in the Dialogue with Ministers of Foreign Affairs and representatives of social actors in the Summits of the Americas; and
 - b. Continue their efforts, both domestically and multilaterally, to expand opportunities for participation by civil society organizations and other social actors in OAS activities and in the Summits of the Americas process.
7. To encourage member states to continue reporting on existing procedures and regulations regarding consultations with civil society and other social actors, to allow for an exchange of experiences and best practices among the member states.
8. To recognize the efforts of the Government of the Republic of Paraguay, as host country of the forty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly, to work together with the General Secretariat and with civil society organizations and social actors to facilitate and organize their participation in the dialogue of heads of delegation, in accordance with resolution CP/RES. 840 (1361/03), and to encourage future hosts to continue to build on these traditions.
9. To adopt the “Strategy for Strengthening Participation by Civil Society Organizations and Social Actors in Activities of the Organization of American States” (CP/CISC-422/09 rev. 3), which will be implemented within the framework of the “Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities” [CP/RES.759 (1217/99)] and other relevant resolutions on civil society participation, in order to promote a coordinated model that will facilitate civil society participation in OAS activities.
10. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue to support member states that so request in their efforts to increase the institutional capacity of their governments to receive, integrate, and incorporate civil society input and advocacy.
11. To ask the General Secretariat to prepare a follow-up report on the implementation of the strategies to increase and strengthen the participation of civil society organizations and social actors in the activities of the OAS and of its organs, agencies, and entities, in compliance with resolution CP/RES. 840 (1361/03), in order to identify the topics from civil society organizations and social actors that have been incorporated into the Organization’s thematic agenda and to strengthen synergies.
12. To request that the General Secretariat report to the Permanent Council before the forty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... without prejudice to the contents approved by Ecuador in other negotiation contexts, as appropriate.

2. ... are inappropriate, in that during that event, the Heads of State and Government were unable to consider or adopt the Political Declaration, which reflected the common will of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for the sister republic of Cuba to participate unconditionally and on a footing of sovereign equality. We reaffirm that a “Summit of the Americas” cannot be held without the presence of Cuba. The mandates and operative paragraphs on the core themes were part of the Political Declaration and as the latter were not adopted, neither were the former. For that reason, Nicaragua and Ecuador disagree with making references to these documents and mandates that were not adopted.

AG/RES. 2862 (XLIV-O/14)

THE AMERICAS: A ZONE OF PEACE, COOPERATION,
AND PEACEFUL DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

BEARING IN MIND that Article 2 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) enshrines among its essential purposes strengthening the peace and security of the continent, preventing possible causes of difficulties, and ensuring the pacific settlement of disputes that may arise among the member states;

UNDERSCORING that the General Assembly, meeting in Santiago, Chile, from June 8 to 10, 2003, recognized with satisfaction and emphasized, as an important achievement for hemispheric security, the declaration of the South American presidents, adopted at their second meeting, held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, on July 27, 2002, establishing the region as a “South American Zone of Peace and Cooperation”;

NOTING that the General Assembly, meeting in Santiago, Chile, from June 8 to 10, 2003, expressed the commitment of the OAS to contribute effectively to initiatives carried out at the regional and subregional levels to strengthen peace and security;

HIGHLIGHTING that peace is a value and a principle in itself, based on democracy, justice, respect for human rights, solidarity, security, and respect for international law;

REAFFIRMING that peace is a supreme good and a legitimate aspiration of all peoples and that preserving peace is a fundamental element of hemispheric integration and cooperation;

REITERATING its commitment to the principle of the peaceful settlement of disputes embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and the OAS Charter and its decision to strengthen peace in the Hemisphere, through conflict prevention and peaceful settlement of disputes;

RECALLING that in the Declaration on Security in the Americas adopted at the Special Conference on Security, in Mexico City, Mexico, in October 2003, the member states considered that “zones of peace and cooperation contribute to peace, security, and cooperation in the Hemisphere” and declared their support for “the creation of zones of peace at the bilateral or subregional level by member states”;

UNDERSCORING that in the Consensus of Guayaquil, Ecuador, of July 2002, the South American presidents, inspired by the vocation of attaining peaceful coexistence, declared South America to be a “Zone of Peace and Cooperation”;

CONSIDERING that the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth regular session, held in Quito, Ecuador, from June 6 to 8, 2004, reiterated the content and aims of resolution AG/RES. 1969

(XXXIII-O/03), “Recognition of the South American Zone of Peace and Cooperation,” in particular the expressed commitment of the OAS to contribute effectively to initiatives carried out at the regional and subregional levels to strengthen peace;

CONSIDERING ALSO that the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth regular session, held in Quito, Ecuador, from June 6 to 8, 2004, instructed the Permanent Council to continue to consider, in the Committee on Hemispheric Security, the topic of zones of peace and cooperation in the region, which would help to consolidate confidence-building measures in the various fields of defense and security and promote fruitful hemispheric cooperation, and to report on this matter to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth regular session;

NOTING that important regional initiatives have been established in:

- a. the Andean Commitment to Peace, Security, and Cooperation, contained in the Declaration of Galapagos of December 1989;
- b. the Declaration of Puntarenas of 1990, declaring Central America to be a region of peace, freedom, democracy, and development;
- c. the Declaration of MERCOSUR, Bolivia, and Chile as a Zone of Peace, signed in Ushuaia, Argentina, in July 1998;
- d. the commitment adopted in the Brasilia Communiqué at the First Meeting of Presidents of South America on September 1, 2000;
- e. the Lima Commitment, established in the Andean Charter for Peace and Security, signed on June 17, 2002;
- f. the unanimous decision of the ministers of foreign affairs and defense of South America to make the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) a privileged forum for dialogue and political cooperation for the peaceful coexistence of peoples, as a result of which UNASUR decided at the presidential level to strengthen South America as a zone of peace; and
- g. the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, adopted by 33 heads of state and government at the Second Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held on January 28 and 29, 2014, in Havana, Cuba, which reaffirmed those states’ political will to guarantee and promote peace and the peaceful resolution of disputes;

EMPHASIZING that the Hemisphere has managed to resolve all conflicts among states, using existing means for the peaceful settlement of disputes, as a result of which it is the only region in which there are currently no armed conflicts between states;

REAFFIRMING the Declaration of Lima: Peace, Security, and Cooperation in the Americas, adopted by the OAS General Assembly at its fortieth regular session held, in Lima, Peru, in June 2010, in which, *inter alia*, it ratified its respect for international law and its faith in the peaceful settlement of disputes and, at the same time, its decision to continue fostering a culture of peace and promoting education for peace among the countries of the region;

REAFFIRMING ALSO the global and regional validity of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and

Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, and the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco); and

AFFIRMING with pride and humility that the peoples of the Americas have attained the political maturity that allows them to resolve disputes between states by using all the tools necessary to uphold peace and permanent cooperation,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the purposes and principles related to the peace of the Hemisphere enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the Organization of American States and to reaffirm its commitment to respect international law and its faith in the peaceful settlement of disputes.

2. To consolidate the Americas as a zone of peace based on respect for the principles and provisions of international law, including the international instruments to which the member states are parties, and the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter and of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS).

3. Based on the principles upheld in the Charter of the OAS of respect for the personality, sovereignty, and independence of states; of the sovereign right of every state to choose its political, economic, and social system and to organize itself in the way best suited to it; and of condemnation of wars of aggression, the states of the Americas renew their determination to cooperate extensively to eliminate poverty, consolidate social justice and security, permit full enjoyment of the fundamental rights of the individual, and strengthen democracy in the Hemisphere, as valid paths for consolidating peace among the states of the Hemisphere and the solidarity that makes it possible to settle any dispute that may arise among the states of the Americas.

4. To assist in the preservation of peace and the peaceful settlement of disputes among OAS member states and to reiterate the commitment that no state or group of states has the right to intervene, directly or indirectly, for any reason whatever, in the internal or external affairs of any other state. The foregoing principle precludes not only armed force, but also any other form of interference or attempted threat against the personality of a state or against its political, economic, and cultural elements; and to observe the principles of national sovereignty and other principles of international law.

5. To reaffirm also that democracy constitutes a right and a fundamental shared value that contributes to the stability, peace, and development of the states of the Hemisphere and that the full exercise thereof is essential for the consolidation of the rule of law and the political, economic, and social development of peoples, as set forth in the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

6. Its commitment to ensuring that the OAS continues to contribute to the overcoming of tensions and solution of crises, with full respect for the sovereignty of states and the principles of the OAS Charter; and, in addition, to continue supporting bilateral, subregional, regional, and international efforts, agreements, and mechanisms to prevent conflicts and achieve the peaceful settlement of disputes.

7. To support bilateral, subregional, and regional efforts, agreements, and mechanisms for conflict prevention and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

8. To ask the Permanent Council to continue to consider, in the Committee on Hemispheric Security, the topic of zones of peace and cooperation in the region, which will help to consolidate confidence-building measures in the various fields of defense and security.

9. To actively promote disarmament and nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems and to continue developing and implementing confidence-building measures, including among them the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions.

AG/RES. 2863 (XLIV-O/14)

HUMAN RIGHTS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AND GENDER IDENTITY
AND EXPRESSION^{1/ 2/ 3/ 4/ 5/ 6/ 7/ 8/ 9/ 10/ 11/ 12/ 13/}

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolutions AG/RES. 2435 (XXXVIII-O/08), AG/RES. 2504 (XXXIX-O/09), AG/RES. 2600 (XL-O/10), AG/RES. 2653 (XLI-O/11), AG/RES. 2721 (XLII-O/12), and AG/RES. 2807 (XLIII-O/13), “Human Rights, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity and Expression”;

REITERATING:

That the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in that instrument, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status; and

-
1. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is unable to join consensus on the approval of this resolution. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is of the view that the term “gender expression” is one that is not...
 2. The State of Guatemala declares that it promotes and defends all human rights and, regarding the provisions of this resolution, reaffirms the equality of all human beings, as is recognized under the ...
 3. Ecuador declares that it promotes and defends all human rights and, regarding the provisions of this resolution, does not discriminate for any reason on the grounds of race, creed, sex ...
 4. The Republic of Paraguay reiterates its commitment to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international conventions concluded on the subject,...
 5. The Government of Belize is unable to join consensus on this resolution, given the fact that several of the issues and principles addressed therein, directly or indirectly, are at present the subject ...
 6. The Government of Jamaica is unable to join the consensus on the approval of this resolution, given that the terminology of gender expression, as proposed, is ambiguous and has the potential...
 7. The Government of Honduras notes its commitment to human rights and to the international conventions that it has signed to that effect. Furthermore, it does not consider itself obligated ...
 8. The Government of the Republic of Suriname is unable to join consensus on this resolution at this time, due to the fact that some of the terms and elements addressed in the resolution ...
 9. The Government of Guyana is unable to join consensus on the approval of this resolution given the fact that several of the issues addressed herein are currently the subject of deliberation ...
 10. In the context of existing policy and legislation, the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is unable to support the resolution. However, Trinidad and Tobago is signatory to the ...
 11. The Government of Barbados is unable to join consensus on the approval of this resolution given that a number of the issues and terms contained in the resolution are neither reflected in its national ...
 12. Saint Lucia is unable to join consensus on the approval of this resolution since we are of the view that the term “gender expression” is one that is not thoroughly defined or accepted ...
 13. Panama will implement this resolution in accordance with the provisions contained in the Political Constitution of the Republic of Panama.

That the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man establishes that every human being has the right to life, liberty, and security of his person without distinction as to race, sex, language, creed, or any other factor;

CONSIDERING that the Charter of the Organization of American States proclaims that the historic mission of the Americas is to offer to man a land of liberty and a favorable environment for the development of his personality and the realization of his just aspirations;

REAFFIRMING the principles of universality, indivisibility, and interdependence of human rights;

TAKING NOTE:

Of the creation, in November 2013, by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) of the Rapporteurship for the Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Intersex (LGBTI) Persons, which will continue with the work of the IACHR's LGBTI Unit and its work plan, which includes the preparation of a hemispheric report on this subject;

Of the opening for signing, of the Inter-American Convention against all Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance;

Of the Second Report of the IACHR on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders in the Americas, according to which organizations that promote and defend the human rights of LGBTI persons play a fundamental role in the region in terms of public oversight to ensure compliance with the states' obligations vis-à-vis the rights to privacy, equality, and nondiscrimination, and are faced with obstacles, including "murder, threats, criminalization of their activities, the failure to take a different approach to the investigation of violations committed against them, and discourse calculated to discredit"; and

Of the Statement on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity presented to the United Nations General Assembly on December 18, 2008;

NOTING WITH CONCERN the acts of violence and related human rights violations as well as discrimination practiced against persons because of their sexual orientation and gender identity;

TAKING NOTE of the report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (A/HRC/22/53), which states, "Children who are born with atypical sex characteristics are often subject to irreversible sex assignment, involuntary sterilization, involuntary genital normalizing surgery, performed without their informed consent, or that of their parents, 'in an attempt to fix their sex,' leaving them with permanent, irreversible infertility and causing severe mental suffering"; and

TAKING NOTE, FINALLY, of the terminological study "Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression: Some Terminology and Relevant Standards," prepared by the IACHR and published on April 23, 2012, in keeping with resolution AG/RES. 2653 (XLI-O/11), "Human Rights, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity,"

RESOLVES:

1. To condemn all forms of discrimination against persons by reason of their sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, and to urge member states within the parameters of the legal institutions of their domestic systems to eliminate, where they exist, barriers faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and intersex (LGBTI) persons in equal access to political participation and in other areas of public life, and to avoid interferences in their private life.

2. To encourage member states to consider, within the parameters of the legal institutions of their domestic systems, adopting public policies against discrimination by reason of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

3. To condemn acts of violence and human rights violations committed against persons by reason of their sexual orientation and gender identity or expression; and to urge states to strengthen their national institutions with a view to preventing and investigating these acts and violations and ensuring due judicial protection for victims on an equal footing and that the perpetrators are brought to justice.

4. In addition, to urge states, within their institutional capacities, to produce data on homophobic and transphobic violence, with a view to fostering public policies that protect the human rights of LGBTI persons.

5. To urge member states to ensure adequate protection for human rights defenders who work in the area of violence, discrimination, and human rights violations committed against individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

6. To urge member states to afford appropriate protection to intersex people and to implement policies and procedures, as appropriate, to ensure medical practices that are consistent with applicable human rights standards.

7. To request the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to pay particular attention to its work plan titled “Rights of LGBTI People” and, in keeping with its established practice, to continue with its work to prepare a hemispheric study on the subject; and to urge member states to support the efforts of the Commission in this area.

8. To request the IACHR to continue preparing a study on legislation and provisions in force in the member countries of the Organization of American States that restrict the human rights of individuals by reason of their sexual orientation or gender identity or expression and to prepare, based on that study, a guide aimed at promoting the decriminalization of homosexuality and practices related to gender identity or expression.

9. To urge member states that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying, or acceding to, as the case may be, the inter-American human rights instruments, including the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance.^{14/}

14. The United States strongly supports this resolution but wishes to make one clarification as it relates to the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance. ...

10. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... thoroughly defined internationally or that has international acceptance. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines considers that the terminology is heavily nuanced and moreover, that it is currently not defined in its domestic law. Since the discussion on the human rights of LGBT persons is an ongoing one at the level of the United Nations, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is of the view that the discourse at the OAS should be confined only to language that has been recognized or approved by the United Nations.

2. ... Political Constitution of the Republic, and does not discriminate for any reason on the grounds of race, creed, sex, etc. It also considers that not legally recognizing marriage between persons of the same sex is not a discriminatory practice. Accordingly, Guatemala dissociates itself from those parts that are incompatible with and contrary to the national laws that it has in force and reserves the right to interpret the terms of this resolution.

3. ... etc. However, Ecuador considers that not legally recognizing marriage between persons of the same sex does not constitute a discriminatory practice.

4. ... reaffirming the provisions of Title II “On Rights, Duties, and Guarantees”; Chapter III “On Equality”; and Chapter IV “On the Rights of the Family” of the National Constitution and concordant provisions. It also enters its reservation with respect to the text of the resolution.

5. ... of legal proceedings in the Supreme Court of Belize.

6. ... to impose one value system over another. Furthermore, this term and other new terminologies used in the text, have not gained international acceptance nor are they defined in Jamaica’s domestic law.

7. ... by any provision contained in this resolution that could contravene the provisions of those conventions or its domestic laws.

8. ... require broad-based national discussions. The Republic of Suriname remains committed to promoting and defending all human rights for all and, based on the principle of equality, under which all who are within the territory of Suriname have an equal claim to protection of person and property, does not discriminate on the grounds of birth, sex, race, language, religious origin, education, political beliefs, economic position or any other status, as enshrined in the Constitution of Suriname. The Republic of Suriname is guided by the ongoing discussions on the rights of LGBTI persons at the international level and is in favor of the use of inter-governmentally agreed human rights and fundamental freedoms as enshrined in the various human rights instruments adopted by the United Nations.

9. ... by a special select committee of the National Assembly.

10. ... Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Equal Opportunity Act 2000, which aims to “prohibit certain kinds of discrimination, to promote equality, opportunity between persons of different status,” ensures that persons cannot be discriminated against in employment, education, health, protection and other social good based on characteristics including their religion, race, class, sex and socio-economic status. Under the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act (No. 31 of 2000) the act of sodomy, whether between same-sex partners or heterosexual partners, is illegal. However, this legislation is rarely enforced.”

11. ... laws nor the subject of national consensus. As such, Barbados would not be in a position to meet these requirements. However, the Government of Barbados remains committed to protecting the rights of all from harm and violence, in keeping with the rule of law and the provisions of its Constitution.

12. ... internationally. Moreover, not only is the expression heavily nuanced, but, most importantly, it is currently not defined in domestic law.

14. ... The United States has consistently objected to the negotiation of new legally binding instruments against racism, racial discrimination and other forms of discrimination or intolerance. We reiterate our longstanding concerns with that exercise within the OAS and the resulting conventions. We are concerned that some provisions of these conventions could undermine, or are incompatible with, international human rights law protections including those related to the freedoms of expression and association. The United States believes that, rather than promoting these new instruments, the resources of the OAS and of its member states should be focused on identifying practical steps to combat racism, racial discrimination and other forms of discrimination and intolerance, including best practices in the form of national legislation and enhanced implementation of existing global instruments.

AG/RES. 2864 (XLIV-O/14)

PERSONS WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED AND ASSISTANCE
TO MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 2794 (XLIII-O/13), “Persons who have Disappeared and Assistance to Members of their Families,” adopted by the General Assembly on June 5, 2013; Resolution 67/180, “International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,” adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 20, 2012; other past resolutions on this subject, adopted by both forums, by the former Commission on Human Rights and by the present Human Rights Council of the United Nations, as well as the treaties on international humanitarian law and international human rights law, both universal and regional, that address this problem;

NOTING that the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons, adopted in Belém do Pará, Brazil, on June 9, 1994, by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), came into force on March 28, 1996, and that 16 states have ratified or adhered to it; and that the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, adopted on December 20, 2006, by the United Nations General Assembly, entered into force on December 23, 2010, and that 42 countries have ratified or acceded to it, of which 14 are states of the Hemisphere, and that four of the 14 countries that have recognized the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances belong to this region;

BEARING IN MIND that the problem of missing persons and assistance to members of their families is addressed in both international humanitarian law and international human rights law within their respective spheres of application, and that, in accordance with those legal frameworks, states are further urged to adopt, progressively, the national implementing measures referred to in previous resolutions of this General Assembly on the subject, in particular, in terms of prevention, investigation of cases, information management, and treatment of human remains, and support to family members;

REAFFIRMING the humanitarian need and the responsibility of states to continue necessary efforts to alleviate the suffering, anxiety, and uncertainty besetting the family members of persons who are presumed to have disappeared in situations of armed conflict or armed violence, as well as their right to truth and justice, to learn about the fate and whereabouts of those persons, as recognized in OAS resolution AG/RES. 2509 (XXXIX-O/09), and, where appropriate, to receive legal remedy for the damage caused;

CONCERNED about the situation of migrants presumed to have disappeared and mindful of the need to persist in efforts to find solutions to this problem;^{1/}

-
1. Although Colombia shares this concern regarding the situation of migrants presumed to have disappeared and is aware of the need to take steps to address the problem, it holds that states’...

REAFFIRMING that forced disappearance is a multiple and continuous violation of several human rights, the widespread or systematic practice of which constitutes a crime against humanity as defined in applicable international law and that, therefore, it cannot be practiced, permitted, or tolerated, even in states of emergency or exception or of suspension of guarantees;

RECOGNIZING the need to address the issue of persons considered to have disappeared in the context of armed conflicts or situations of armed violence as part of peace-building, and consolidation of peace processes, using all available judicial and transitional-justice mechanisms, within a framework of the rule of law, transparency, accountability, and public participation;

EMPHASIZING the development of forensic science and its important contribution in the process of searching for missing persons, especially as regards the location, recovery, analysis, identification, and return of human remains to their families, and as regards clarification of the whereabouts and fate of persons who are presumed to have disappeared; and

TAKING NOTE of the conclusions and recommendations of the First Meeting of Forensic Specialists of the Americas of the Meeting of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas in 2009, the Guiding Principles/Model Law on the Missing of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the ICRC handbook “Accompanying the Families of Missing Persons,” and the minimum standards for psychosocial work proposed in the International Consensus on Principles and Minimum Standards for Psychosocial Work in Search Processes and Forensic Investigations in Cases of Enforced Disappearances, Arbitrary or Extrajudicial Executions,

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate the provisions of operative paragraphs 1 to 17 of resolution AG/RES. 2594 (XL-O/10), “Persons Who Have Disappeared and Assistance to Members of Their Families,” adopted by the General Assembly on June 8, 2010.

2. To urge member states, in keeping with their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law and with pertinent national and international jurisprudence, to continue the progressive adoption of measures, including domestic regulatory and institutional provisions, to:

- a. prevent the disappearance of persons, with particular focus on those related to vulnerable groups;
- b. clarify the whereabouts and fate of those who have disappeared;
- c. attend to the needs of the family members; and
- d. strengthen technical capacity and promote regional cooperation for forensic search, recovery, and use of forensic genetics for the identification of human remains, including with regard to the problem of migrants presumed to have disappeared;

3. To encourage member states, in order to address the legal situation of missing persons and its effect on that of family members, to proceed to adopt the necessary comprehensive domestic legal framework to recognize and address the legal and practical difficulty and hardship

faced by the missing person and his or her family members, including the legal framework needed to authorize a “declaration of absence” for persons who are presumed to have disappeared.

4. To invite member states to enact timely provisions that ensure the participation and representation of victims and their families in the relevant proceedings, as well as access to justice and to mechanisms for them to be able to seek fair, prompt, and effective reparation; and, likewise, provisions to guarantee protection for victims and witnesses, especially women and children and adolescents of both sexes, human rights defenders, and lawyers involved in cases of serious violations of international humanitarian law and of international human rights law filed in their courts and in other transitional-justice mechanisms.

5. To ask member states to pay maximum attention to cases of children and adolescents of both sexes presumed to have disappeared and to adopt appropriate measures to seek out, identify, and, if possible, reunite them with their families.

6. To invite member states to consider ratifying or acceding to, and implementing in their domestic legal systems the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons of 1994 and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance of 2006, and to recognize the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances for envisaged in the latter convention.

7. To exhort member states, in order to allow family members to exercise their right to learn the fate and whereabouts of relatives who have disappeared in situations of armed conflict or armed violence], as recognized in resolution AG/RES. 2509 (XXXIX-O/09), to adopt effective measures in the context of a broad and comprehensive investigation for the location, recovery, identification, and return of human remains, using standardized forensic protocols and promoting the establishment of centralized databases, while respecting the families’ dignity, traditions, and mental health.

8. To invite member states to collect, protect, and manage data on disappeared persons in accordance with national and international legal standards and provisions, and to support the training of forensic scientists in their respective countries, together with the implementation of forensic examinations consistent with internationally validated scientific standards and procedures. To those ends, to urge states to foster international cooperation, exchanges of information, and the participation and technical assistance of international and national institutions with recognized experience in the field.

9. To invite member states to continue their cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), a recognized, neutral, independent humanitarian institution, in its areas of responsibility, by facilitating its work and implementing its technical recommendations with a view to consolidating the measures adopted by states in the process of searching for missing persons and providing assistance to their families.

10. To encourage member states, as appropriate, with the support of their respective missing persons search commissions and their national commissions on human rights or on international humanitarian law, or other competent bodies, in accordance with their respective mandates, and, as warranted, with technical collaboration from the ICRC, to promote, at the national

level, the adoption of measures regarding the provisions of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly since 2005 on “Persons who have Disappeared and Assistance to Members of Their Families” and to provide information thereon, entrusting the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs with placing on its agenda the broad dissemination of this information before the forty-sixth regular session of the OAS General Assembly.

11. To instruct the Permanent Council to follow up on this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

FOOTNOTE

1. ... commitments as regards international migration cannot be compared to the obligations that exist with respect to people who have disappeared through forced disappearances, situations of armed conflict, or situations of armed violence, and with regard to the families of such persons, since such situations are treated differently under international law.

AG/RES. 2865 (XLIV-O/14)

AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTE AND REGULATIONS OF CITEL

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the amendments to the Statute and Regulations of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) approved by the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Assembly of CITEL through resolution CITEL/RES. 73 (VI-14); and

CONSIDERING that amendments to the Statute of CITEL approved by the CITEL Assembly in accordance with Articles 5 and 34 thereof are subject to the approval of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), and all amendments to the CITEL Regulations that are approved by the CITEL Assembly must be transmitted to the OAS General Assembly for its information,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve *nunc pro tunc*, as of the date of their approval by the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Assembly of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) through resolution CITEL/RES. 73 (VI-14), all the amendments to the CITEL Statute contained in Annex 1 hereto.

2. To take note of the amendments to the CITEL Regulations approved by the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Assembly of CITEL through resolution CITEL/RES. 73 (VI-14) contained in Annex 2 hereto.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTE OF CITEL
(Approved at the third plenary session of the Sixth Regular Meeting
of the Assembly of CITEL)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER ONE ORGANIZATION, FUNCTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP	257
ARTICLE 1 NATURE, MISSION, AND VISION.....	257
ARTICLE 2 STRUCTURE	257
ARTICLE 3 PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS	257
ARTICLE 4 MEMBERSHIP	259
CHAPTER TWO CITEL ASSEMBLY	260
ARTICLE 5 PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS	260
ARTICLE 6 PLACE AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS	260
ARTICLE 7 PARTICIPATION IN THE CITEL ASSEMBLY	261
ARTICLE 8 OFFICERS OF THE CITEL ASSEMBLY	262
ARTICLE 9 AGENDA	262
ARTICLE 10 SESSIONS AND MEETINGS	262
ARTICLE 11 COMMITTEES	262
ARTICLE 12 QUORUM.....	263
ARTICLE 13 VOTING.....	263
CHAPTER THREE THE PERMANENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (COM/CITEL)	264
ARTICLE 14 MEMBERSHIP	264
ARTICLE 15 INSTALLATION SESSION AND OFFICERS.....	264
ARTICLE 16 CHAIR OF COM/CITEL	264
ARTICLE 17 FUNCTIONS OF COM/CITEL	265
ARTICLE 18 MEETINGS AND HEADQUARTERS OF COM/CITEL	266
ARTICLE 19 QUORUM.....	267
ARTICLE 20 VOTING.....	267
ARTICLE 21 TRAVEL EXPENSES	267
CHAPTER FOUR PERMANENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES (PCCS).....	268
ARTICLE 22 PURPOSE	268
ARTICLE 23 STRUCTURE OF THE PERMANENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES	268
ARTICLE 24 PARTICIPATION IN THE PERMANENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES: MEMBERS, ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS	269
CHAPTER FIVE THE SECRETARIAT	270
ARTICLE 25 PURPOSES AND FUNCTIONS	270
ARTICLE 26 THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF CITEL	270
ARTICLE 27 SECRETARIAT SERVICES	270

CHAPTER SIX EXPENSES AND FUNDS OF CITEL	271
ARTICLE 28 CITEL FUNDING SOURCES	271
ARTICLE 29 SPECIFIC FUNDS.....	271
 CHAPTER SEVEN OFFICIAL AND WORKING LANGUAGES.....	272
ARTICLE 30 OFFICIAL LANGUAGES.....	272
ARTICLE 31 WORKING LANGUAGES	272
ARTICLE 32 DOCUMENTS	272
 CHAPTER EIGHT GENERAL PROVISIONS REGARDING THE STATUTE AND RULES OF PROCEDURES	273
ARTICLE 33 GOVERNING NORMS	273
ARTICLE 34 AMENDMENTS	273
ARTICLE 35 CITEL REGULATIONS.....	273
ARTICLE 36 ENTRY INTO FORCE.....	273

STATUTE OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATION COMMISSION

CHAPTER ONE
ORGANIZATION, FUNCTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

Article 1
Nature, Mission, and Vision

The Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) is an entity of the Organization of American States (hereinafter “the Organization”), established by the General Assembly, in accordance with Article 53 of the Charter of the Organization.

CITEL has the mission to facilitate and promote the integral and sustainable development of interoperable, innovative and reliable telecommunications/ICTs in the Americas, under the principles of universality, equity and affordability.

The vision of CITEL is the full integration of the American States into the global information society, with a view to enabling and accelerating social, economic and environmentally sustainable development for all the region’s inhabitants through the development of telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs).

CITEL enjoys technical autonomy in the performance of its functions, within the limits of the Charter of the Organization, this Statute, and the mandates of the General Assembly of the Organization.

Article 2
Structure

CITEL shall achieve its objectives through the following bodies:

- a. The Assembly of CITEL;
- b. The Permanent Executive Committee (COM/CITEL);
- c. The Permanent Consultative Committees; and
- d. The Secretariat.

Article 3
Objectives and Functions

Objectives

- a. To facilitate and promote, by all means available to it, the continuing development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) (hereinafter telecommunications/ICTs) in the Hemisphere in pursuance of sustainable development.

- b. To promote and foster the existence of appropriate telecommunications/ICTs that contribute to the integral development process in the region, with particular attention to underserved areas.
- c. To organize promote, and evaluate the periodic holding of meetings of technicians and experts to study planning, financing, construction, operation, standardization, technical assistance, maintenance, and other matters related to the use and development of telecommunications/ICTs in the Americas.
- d. To promote the unification of criteria and technical standards for the installation, operation, and maintenance of systems, in order to obtain maximum benefit from the facilities available to each country and to the region in general, in the global standardization framework of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and other relevant standardization organizations.
- e. To promote and study technical assistance, in agreement with the governments of the respective countries, giving priority to the needs of developing countries.
- f. To foster the improvement and harmonization of administrative, financial, and operational procedures for the planning, installation, improvement, maintenance, and operation of the telecommunications/ICT networks of the Member States of CITEL.
- g. To recommend studies and promote the adoption of official agreements among governments of Member States of the Organization for the planning, installation, maintenance, and operation of telecommunications/ICT systems in the Hemisphere.
- h. To promote and encourage the study and dissemination of the impact of telecommunications on the environment and climate change and their relationship to ICTs, in keeping with policies developed by the ITU and other organizations with competence in this area.
- i. To promote the harmonization, equitable access, and efficient use of the radio spectrum among the Member States, devoting special attention to the needs of developing countries.
- j. To promote and encourage the use and appropriation of telecommunications/ICTs in the Hemisphere, particularly by women, girls, and people with special needs.
- k. To promote capacity-building in the Member States of CITEL to better attain their objectives.

Functions

- a. To serve as the Organization's leading advisory body in all matters relating to telecommunications/ICTs in the Hemisphere.
- b. To promote or undertake studies and programs for the sustainable development of telecommunications/ICTs

- c. To compile and disseminate to the member states of the Organization information pertaining to the fulfillment of the objectives of CITEL, as well as any other information that may be of interest, including the results of the work of the Commission.
- d. To maintain ongoing contact with the various international governmental and nongovernmental organizations in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, and to promote mutual cooperation and coordination of their activities with those of the Member States of the Organization.
- e. To analyze, propose, and implement different forms of financing to support the approved plans and projects.
- f. To study the technical, legal, economic, policy, and regulatory aspects of telecommunications/ICTs of relevance to the region.
- g. To make recommendations in the area of telecommunications/ICTs to the governments of the Member States of CITEL, taking into account those made by the ITU and by other relevant organizations.
- h. To consider matters related to inter-American cooperation in the field of telecommunications/ICTs assigned to it by the General Assembly and the Summit of the Americas.
- i. To promote the development of new applications that promote the inclusion of the region's countries in the Knowledge-based Society.
- j. To identify mechanisms to encourage participation by all Member States in the meetings of CITEL, and to increase the number of associate members.
- k. To promote the coordination of positions among the Member States for the different international telecommunications/ICT conferences, assemblies, and meetings.

Article 4 Membership

The following States can be members of CITEL:

- a. All the Member States of the Organization.
- b. Other American States that are not members of the Organization, whose request for membership in CITEL is favorably decided upon by the CITEL Assembly and the General Assembly of the Organization, because of the special interest shown by those governments in cooperating in the attainment of the purpose and objectives of CITEL.

CHAPTER TWO CITEL ASSEMBLY

Article 5 Purpose and Functions

Purpose

It is the apex body of CITEL and is composed of the Member States of the Organization.

It serves as an inter-American forum in which the highest telecommunications/ICT authorities of the Member States of the Organization share opinions and experiences and make appropriate decisions to direct their activities towards achieving its assigned objectives and mandates.

Functions

- a. Establishing the policies for achieving the objectives and functions set out in Article 3 of this Statute.
- b. Adopting the Strategic Plan of CITEL.
- c. Establishing the mandates for each of the bodies of CITEL.
- d. Electing the members of COM/CITEL.
- e. Establishing the Permanent Consultative Committees.
- f. Approving the request for membership of CITEL of American States that are not members of the Organization, subject to ratification by the General Assembly of the Organization.
- g. Proposing amendments to this Statute for approval by the General Assembly of the Organization.
- h. Approving the CITEL Regulations and presenting them to the General Assembly of the Organization for its information.
- i. Approving the report on the financial situation of CITEL.
- j. Establishing the amount of the fee to be paid by the associate members of the PCCs and the participation fee for observers.

Article 6 Place and Frequency of Meetings

CITEL shall hold a Regular Meeting of the CITEL Assembly every four years, in the place as determined by the CITEL Assembly in accordance with the principle of rotation set forth in the Regulations.

The CITEL Assembly may hold Special Meetings as provided in the Regulations.

Article 7
Participation in the CITEL Assembly

Delegations

Each Member State is entitled to send a delegation to the CITEL Assembly. The delegation of each Member State may include a head of delegation, an alternate head of delegation, and such delegates and advisors as that State may accredit.

Secretary General of the Organization

The Secretary General of the Organization, or his representative, may participate with voice but without vote in the deliberations of the CITEL Assembly, both in the plenary sessions and in the committees and subcommittees.

Observers

The following may be represented by observers at a meeting of the CITEL Assembly with the right to voice but without vote:

- a. Permanent Observers to the Organization.
- b. Subject to COM/CITEL's approval, those American States that are not Members of the Organization and which have asked to participate in the meeting.
- c. Subject to COM/CITEL's approval, those Non-American States that are Members of the United Nations or its specialized Agencies and which have asked to participate in the meeting.
- d. Inter-American specialized organizations and entities of the Organization, and Inter-American intergovernmental regional organizations.
- e. The United Nations and its specialized agencies.
- f. International and national organizations that are parties to agreements or arrangements establishing relations of cooperation with the Organization, with its organs, organizations or agencies, when such agreements or arrangements provide for participation of observers.
- g. Subject to COM/CITEL's approval, those international, regional, sub regional and national agencies and organizations that are involved in telecommunications/ICT activities in the region and which have asked to participate in the meeting.
- h. The associate members of the Permanent Consultative Committees.

Guests

Subject to COM/CITEL's approval and in consultation with the government of the host country, other persons or institutions not covered in this Article as may be deemed advisable, may attend the CITEL Assembly as guests, as defined in the Regulations.

Article 8 Officers of the CITEL Assembly

There shall be a Chair and two Vice Chairs of the CITEL Assembly, elected at the first plenary session, by an absolute majority of the Member States represented at the Assembly. Before the election of the Chair of the CITEL Assembly, the Chair of COM/CITEL shall serve as the provisional Chair.

Article 9 Agenda

COM/CITEL shall prepare the preliminary agenda for each CITEL Assembly meeting, and shall submit it to the Member States for consideration, at least three (3) months in advance of the opening of the CITEL Assembly Meeting. The Member States shall have thirty consecutive days to present their observations on the draft agenda to the Chair of COM/CITEL. On the basis of these observations, COM/CITEL shall draw up the final agenda.

The agenda so approved, may be amended or otherwise modified only during the Meeting of the CITEL Assembly by a vote of two thirds of the participating Member States.

Article 10 Sessions and Meetings

Each Meeting of the CITEL Assembly shall consist of such Plenary Sessions as are required to complete the Agenda for the Meeting and the sessions of the Committees of the CITEL Assembly as provided under this Statute.

Article 11 Committees

There shall be a Steering Committee, a Credentials Committee and a Style Committee, as further provided in the Regulations.

The CITEL Assembly may establish such other committees, subcommittees, and working groups when required.

Article 12
Quorum

For Plenary Sessions, the presence of more than half of the Member States shall constitute a quorum.

For committees, subcommittees, and working groups of the CITEI Assembly, the presence of more than half of the Member States of the body concerned shall constitute a quorum.

Article 13
Voting

The decisions of the CITEI Assembly shall be adopted at the plenary sessions and consensus shall always be sought. Each delegation of a Member State shall have the right to one vote. The right to vote does not imply an obligation to vote.

In the absence of consensus in the deliberations, the decisions of the CITEI Assembly shall be adopted by the vote of an absolute majority of the Member States participating, except in those cases where a two-thirds vote of the participating Member States is expressly required.

In the committees, subcommittees, and working groups, decisions shall be adopted by a simple majority.

For the purposes of this Statute, the term “absolute majority” means more than half of the votes of the Member States participating in a meeting of the CITEI Assembly. The term “simple majority” means more than half of those present and voting in any given session of a Committee, subcommittee, or working group.

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CHAPTER THREE
THE PERMANENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (COM/CITEL)

Article 14
Membership

The Permanent Executive Committee (COM/CITEL) is the executive organ of CITEL. It is composed of representatives of thirteen Member States elected at the CITEL Assembly, who shall serve until the next Regular Meeting of the Assembly.

One of the members shall be the representative of the Member State hosting the meeting of the CITEL Assembly in which the election takes place. Another shall be the representative of the Member State in whose territory the next Regular Meeting of the CITEL Assembly will be held. In the election of the remaining eleven Member States, the principles of rotation and of an equitable geographic representation shall be observed, insofar as possible.

Article 15
Installation Session and Officers

COM/CITEL shall be installed by the Chair of the CITEL Assembly before the closing of the Meeting at which the Member States that are to serve on COM/CITEL are elected.

At the installation session of COM/CITEL, the Chair of the CITEL Assembly shall be appointed Chair of COM/CITEL. The representative of the Member State that has offered to host the next Regular Meeting of the CITEL Assembly shall become the Vice-Chair of COM/CITEL.

Article 16
Chair of COM/CITEL

The Chair of COM/CITEL shall have the following specific responsibilities:

- a. To preside over the meetings of COM/CITEL.
- b. To preside initially at the CITEL Assemblies.
- c. To represent CITEL before other Organs of the Organization, the governmental telecommunications/ICTs entities of the CITEL Members, and other organizations that participate in telecommunications/ICT development activities in the Americas.
- d. To supervise and coordinate the fulfillment of the responsibilities of COM/CITEL, especially during the interim between Regular Meetings.
- e. To direct and coordinate the meetings and forums, that COM/CITEL may conduct with other entities of the regional telecommunications/ICT sector, or with other international entities.

- f. To coordinate with the General Secretariat of the OAS in accordance with its internal structure, the process of presenting candidacies for the position of Executive Secretary of CITEL.

Article 17
Functions of COM/CITEL

The following are functions of COM/CITEL:

- a. To carry out the decisions of the CITEL Assembly, taking into consideration the recommendations of the General Assembly of the Organization and the mandates from the Summit of the Americas related to telecommunications/ICTs.
- b. To carry out and enforce the objectives of Article 3 of this Statute.
- c. To set the date for the Regular and Special Meetings of the CITEL Assembly, the site for the Special Meetings of the CITEL Assembly, and to change either or both as necessary.
- d. To prepare the draft agendas for the Regular and Special Meetings of the CITEL Assembly and to submit them to the governments of the Member States of CITEL for consideration, through the Executive Secretary, pursuant to Article 9 of this Statute.
- e. To propose to the CITEL Assembly any amendments it may consider necessary to introduce to this Statute and the Regulations.
- f. To establish a work program for the Secretariat and for the office of the Chair of COM/CITEL for implementation of the decisions of the CITEL Assembly.
- g. To adopt any urgent measures, which cannot be deferred until the next meeting of the CITEL Assembly and which shall remain in force until the CITEL Assembly can consider them.
- h. Through its Chair or some other designated member of COM/CITEL, to represent CITEL at world, regional, or national meetings or conferences on telecommunications/ICTs or related activities.
- i. With the cooperation of the Secretariat, to prepare studies, drafts of inter-American conventions and treaties, and any other documents relating to telecommunications/ICTs in the Hemisphere.
- j. Through the Secretary General and the appropriate Council of the Organization, to present to the General Assembly an annual report on the activities of CITEL.
- k. To establish such technical committees and working groups as it may consider necessary, determining their work programs.

- l. Within the framework of CITEL's objectives, to plan and coordinate inter-American activities in the area of telecommunications/ICTs.
- m. To review and approve a work program based on the program-budget approved by the General Assembly and an annual proposed budget for CITEL in pursuance of the provisions of Article 112 (c) of the Charter of the Organization; ensuring the strictest possible economy, mindful of the obligation upon CITEL to achieve satisfactory results from the work programs undertaken.
- n. To approve the annual training plan and oversee its implementation.
- o. To approve the participation of observers and guests in the meetings of the Assembly of CITEL.
- p. To coordinate CITEL's preparatory processes for the ITU's Plenipotentiary Conference, World Telecommunications Development Conference and meetings of the Council.
- q. To provide the SG of the OAS the profile and the selection criteria for candidates to occupy the position of Executive Secretary of CITEL and receive nominations from interested Member States.
- r. To select three candidates to occupy the position of Executive Secretary of CITEL and provide the names to the Secretary General for his or her consideration to select one candidate in accordance with the OAS General Standards.
- s. To participate in the process of determining the membership, recruitment, and selection of the Secretariat of CITEL.
- t. If no consensus is reached, Article 20 herein shall apply.

Article 18 Meetings and Headquarters of COM/CITEL

COM/CITEL shall meet at least once a year, in the country represented by its Chair, in another country, or at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Organization as the Committee may decide at its preceding meeting. In the event special meetings are held, they may be attendance-based or online.

Any Member State which is not a member of COM/CITEL may participate in the meetings of COM/CITEL and of its working groups, with voice but without vote.

In consultation with COM/CITEL members, the Chair may invite representatives of specialized agencies or experts in matters to be considered at the meetings to advise as required.

The Member State elected to preside over COM/CITEL shall organize, at its expense, and under the exclusive responsibility of the Chair, an office in accordance with the Regulations.

Article 19
Quorum

More than half of the members of COM/CITEL shall constitute quorum for a COM/CITEL meeting.

Article 20
Voting

In the deliberations of COM/CITEL, each Member State shall have one vote, and in the absence of consensus, the decisions of COM/CITEL shall be adopted by the vote of an absolute majority of the quorum. However, on questions of procedure, decisions shall be taken by a simple majority of those present and voting. In the latter case, abstentions shall not be counted as votes cast.

Article 21
Travel Expenses

Travel expenses of the Chair of COM/CITEL or some other member acting on his behalf, to attend a meeting of an international agency as the representative of CITEL, shall be defrayed by the Organization as provided in the Organization's Program-Budget.

Travel expenses incurred by the members of COM/CITEL to attend its meetings or those of the CITEL Assembly shall be defrayed by the respective Member States they represent.

CHAPTER FOUR PERMANENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES (PCCs)

Article 22 Purpose

The purpose of Permanent Consultative Committees is to provide advice to all those entities that constitute the regional telecommunications/ICT sector, in matters relating to their respective areas of competence.

Article 23 Structure of the Permanent Consultative Committees

Organization

The CITEL Assembly shall organize the Permanent Consultative Committees it considers necessary to attain the objectives defined in Article 3 of this Statute and shall elect the host countries of the Permanent Consultative Committees, observing to the extent possible, the principles of rotation and an equitable geographic distribution.

Officers

The representative appointed by the host country of the Permanent Consultative Committee shall be the Chair of the Committee and shall have the duties set forth in the Regulations. Each Permanent Consultative Committee may establish up to three vice chairmanships.

The Member State that presides over the Permanent Consultative Committee shall organize, at its expense, and under the exclusive responsibility of the Chair, an office in accordance with the Regulations.

Meetings

The Permanent Consultative Committees shall meet at least once a year at a time and place determined by its respective Chair. The Vice-Chairs shall be responsible for assisting the Chair in his duties, and may offer to host an additional meeting of the Consultative Committee if deemed necessary.

Each Consultative Committee may set up working groups which shall submit reports concerning their activities to the Consultative Committee.

Papers, studies, decisions, and draft resolutions of the Permanent Consultative Committees that are to be considered by the CITEL Assembly shall be submitted to COM/CITEL at least four months before a meeting of the CITEL Assembly takes place.

In the absence of consensus in the deliberations of the Permanent Consultative Committees, draft resolutions shall be adopted in accordance with the voting procedures set forth in the

Regulations. The approval will always require the favorable vote of at least one-third of the Member States.

Article 24
Participation in the Permanent Consultative Committees: Members,
Associate Members and Observers

The Member States and associate members of CITEL, whose rights and obligations are defined in this Statute, collaborate with a view to attaining the objectives of CITEL. /

Members

Each CITEL Member State may appoint a representative to each Permanent Consultative Committee. The representative shall be a specialist in telecommunications/ICTs, who may be removed or replaced by the Member State simply by notifying the Executive Secretary of CITEL of its decision to do so.

Associate Members

1. Any academic entity, organization, institution, or industry related to telecommunications/ICTs which has legal personality in one of the Member States and with the approval of any such State, or which has legal personality in a non-Member State and with the approval of three Member States of CITEL, may become an associate member of a permanent consultative committee. The Member States shall notify the Chair of COM/CITEL in writing of the names of the entities, organizations, or institutions they have approved. Any entity, organization, or institution shall cease to be an associate member in the event that any of the Member States withdraws its approval.
2. An international or regional inter-governmental organization with multiple memberships of States of the Americas that is related to telecommunications/ICTs and has legal personality may become an associate member of a Permanent Consultative Committee with the approval of COM/CITEL. This international or regional organization shall cease to be an associate member in the event that approval is withdrawn by COM/CITEL.
3. Associate members of a Permanent Consultative Committee may fully participate in all the activities of that Permanent Consultative Committee, with voice but without vote. They may present technical papers and receive the documents of the Committee to which they pertain.

Observers

The terms and manner of participation of observers are dealt with in the Regulations.

CHAPTER FIVE THE SECRETARIAT

Article 25 Purposes and Functions

The Secretariat is the central and permanent administrative organ of CITEI. It shall coordinate the administrative services required for implementing the decisions of the CITEI Assembly, COM/CITEI, and the Permanent Consultative Committees, and it shall perform such other functions as are assigned by those organs.

Article 26 The Executive Secretary of CITEI

COM/CITEI shall propose to the Secretary General a short list of three candidates for the position of Executive Secretary of CITEI, whose functions shall include:

- a. Performance of technical and administrative duties entrusted to the Secretariat, and coordination of the administrative services provided by the Secretariat.
- b. Preparation and submission to COM/CITEI and to the Secretary General of the Organization of the proposed Program-Budget of income and expenditure of CITEI.
- c. Representation of the Secretary General of the Organization, when so authorized, with voice but without vote, in the meetings of the CITEI Assembly, COM/CITEI, and the Permanent Consultative Committees.
- d. Assistance in the coordination and implementation of the work plans of the Permanent Consultative Committees and the working groups of COM/CITEI.
- e. Preparations for holding the Regular and Special Meetings of the CITEI Assembly.

The Executive Secretary of CITEI shall perform those functions in accordance with the General Standards Governing the Operation of the General Secretariat of the Organization ("General Standards") and such other rules and regulations that apply to the General Secretariat and its personnel.

Article 27 Secretariat Services

The General Secretariat of the Organization shall provide secretariat services to CITEI in accordance with the allocation of funds in the Program-Budget of the Organization and the Secretary General shall appoint the technical and administrative personnel provide those services in accordance with the General Standards and such other rules and regulations governing the operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization.

CHAPTER SIX
EXPENSES AND FUNDS OF CITEL

Article 28
CITEL Funding Sources

The resources of CITEL operations will come from:

- a. The Regular Fund of the Organization; and
- b. Specific Funds.

Each Member State of CITEL shall bear the expenses of its representatives.

Article 29
Specific Funds

The General Secretariat shall establish the following Specific Funds, pursuant to Article 74 of the General Standards for the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization.

- a. A supplementary fund for the activities of the Permanent Consultative Committees to be funded by voluntary contributions from CITEL Members and by fees from associate members, as determined by the CITEL Regulations.
- b. A supplementary fund for development activities within CITEL's work program, to be funded by specific gifts, donations, and contributions.
- c. A supplementary fund for support of general operations, to be funded by voluntary contributions of CITEL Member States.

Accounting for these specific funds shall be carried out in accordance with the General Standards and Financial Rules and Regulations of the Organization.

CHAPTER SEVEN
OFFICIAL AND WORKING LANGUAGES

Article 30
Official Languages

English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish are the official languages of the CITEI.

Article 31
Working Languages

Spanish and English shall be the working languages. For the Regular and Special Meetings of the CITEI Assembly, the Executive Secretary shall inquire of the CITEI Members concerned if simultaneous interpretation into French and Portuguese will be necessary. The working documents of CITEI shall be made available in Spanish and English. Delegations may present their proposals to the CITEI Assembly in any of the official languages of CITEI.

Article 32
Documents

The draft resolutions, recommendations and decisions, and any amendments thereto, as well as the decisions of the CITEI Assembly, shall be published in the official languages. The CITEI annual report and the reports of the CITEI Assembly meetings shall be published in the official languages. Other documents emanating from CITEI shall be published in the working languages.

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CHAPTER EIGHT
GENERAL PROVISIONS REGARDING THE STATUTE AND RULES OF PROCEDURES

Article 33
Governing Norms

CITEL shall be governed by the present Statute, by its Regulations, and by the resolutions of the General Assembly of the Organization.

Article 34
Amendments

The present Statute, approved by the General Assembly of the Organization, may be amended only by the General Assembly, at its own initiative or upon CITEL's request as provided under CITEL's Regulations.

Article 35
CITEL Regulations

CITEL shall adopt its Regulations in accordance with this Statute and shall submit them to the General Assembly of the Organization with its first annual report.

Article 36
Entry into force

The present Statute shall enter into force on the date of its approval by the General Assembly.

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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE REGULATIONS OF CITEL

(Approved at the Third Plenary Session of the Sixth Regular Meeting
of the Assembly of CITEL)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

AG/DEC. 74 (XLIV-O/14)	DECLARATION OF ASUNCIÓN “DEVELOPMENT WITH SOCIAL INCLUSION”.....	1
AG/DEC. 75 (XLIV-O/14)	PAN AMERICAN AND PARAPAN AMERICAN GAMES, CENTRAL AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN GAMES, AND PEACE	9
AG/DEC. 76 (XLIV-O/14)	DECLARATION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST AND EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN	11
AG/DEC. 77 (XLIV-O/14)	DECLARATION ON THE QUESTION OF THE MALVINAS ISLANDS.....	15
AG/DEC. 78 (XLIV-O/14)	DECLARATION OF GREETINGS TO THE SPECIAL SUMMIT OF THE G77 + CHINA	17
AG/DEC. 79 (XLIV-O/14)	RIGHTS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE AMERICAS.....	19
AG/RES. 2814 (XLIV-O/14)	STRATEGIC VISION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES.....	21
AG/RES. 2815 (XLIV-O/14)	PROGRESS TOWARD ACCOUNTABILITY, EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS, AND RESULTS IN THE OAS GENERAL SECRETARIAT.....	23
AG/RES. 2816 (XLIV-O/14)	ADVANCING HEMISPHERIC INITIATIVES ON INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT	29
AG/RES. 2817 (XLIV-O/14)	STRENGTHENING THE INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT: POLICY DIALOGUE AND PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION	43
AG/RES. 2818 (XLIV-O/14)	CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE CONTEXT OF	61
	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE HEMISPHERE	61
AG/RES. 2819 (XLIV-O/14)	SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES IN THE AMERICAS.....	65
AG/RES. 2820 (XLIV-O/14)	INTERNATIONAL MOTHER EARTH DAY	67
AG/RES. 2821 (XLIV-O/14)	TOWARD AUTONOMY FOR AND STRENGTHENING OF OFFICIAL PUBLIC DEFENDERS AS A GUARANTEE OF ACCESS TO JUSTICE	69
AG/RES. 2822 (XLIV-O/14)	RIGHT TO THE TRUTH.....	73
AG/RES. 2823 (XLIV-O/14)	ADOPTION OF THE FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTOCOL OF SAN SALVADOR.....	77

AG/RES. 2824 (XLIV-O/14)	RECOGNITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT [/]	81
AG/RES. 2825 (XLIV-O/14)	DRAFT INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON PROTECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS ^{//}	85
AG/RES. 2826 (XLIV-O/14)	PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF STATELESSNESS AND PROTECTION OF STATELESS PERSONS IN THE AMERICAS	89
AG/RES. 2827 (XLIV-O/14)	COORDINATION OF VOLUNTEERS IN THE HEMISPHERE IN RESPONSE TO DISASTERS AND THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER AND POVERTY – WHITE HELMETS INITIATIVE	93
AG/RES. 2828 (XLIV-O/14)	PREVENTION AND ERADICATION OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND SMUGGLING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN BOYS, GIRLS, AND ADOLESCENTS OF BOTH SEXES	97
AG/RES. 2829 (XLIV-O/14)	AGAINST TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN, OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT	101
AG/RES. 2830 (XLIV-O/14)	NETWORK FOR CONSUMER SAFETY AND HEALTH AND INTER-AMERICAN RAPID PRODUCT-SAFETY WARNING SYSTEM	105
AG/RES. 2831 (XLIV-O/14)	PROMOTION OF WOMEN’S HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUITY AND EQUALITY AND STRENGTHENING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN	115
AG/RES. 2832 (XLIV-O/14)	IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION, PUNISHMENT, AND ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, “CONVENTION OF BELÉM DO PARÁ”	119
AG/RES. 2833 (XLIV-O/14)	INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE FOR EFFECTIVELY DEALING WITH SOCIAL CONFLICTS IN INVESTMENTS FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT	123
AG/RES. 2834 (XLIV-O/14)	TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION OF A STRATEGY ON YOUTH FOR THE AMERICAS	125
AG/RES. 2835 (XLIV-O/14)	PROMOTION AND STRENGTHENING OF DEMOCRACY: FOLLOW-UP TO THE INTER-AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC CHARTER	129
AG/RES. 2836 (XLIV-O/14)	XXI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS	135
AG/RES. 2837 (XLIV-O/14)	FREE TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN THE HEMISPHERE	137
AG/RES. 2838 (XLIV-O/14)	ASSISTANCE TO MEMBER STATES: EFFECTIVE PUBLIC MANAGEMENT STRENGTHENING AND INNOVATION INITIATIVE IN THE AMERICAS	139
AG/RES. 2839 (XLIV-O/14)	PROTECTION OF ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES IN THE AMERICAS	141

AG/RES. 2840 (XLIV-O/14)	PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN BUSINESS/	145
AG/RES. 2841 (XLIV-O/14)	PREPARATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION OF THE SOCIAL CHARTER OF THE AMERICAS	149
AG/RES. 2842 (XLIV-O/14)	ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA	151
AG/RES. 2843 (XLIV-O/14)	FOLLOW-UP TO THE INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR UNIVERSAL CIVIL REGISTRY AND THE "RIGHT TO IDENTITY"	155
AG/RES. 2844 (XLIV-O/14)	MEETING OF MINISTERS OF JUSTICE OR OTHER MINISTERS OR ATTORNEYS GENERAL OF THE AMERICAS	159
AG/RES. 2845 (XLIV-O/14)	RIGHTS OF PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY/	161
AG/RES. 2846 (XLIV-O/14)	SUPPORT FOR AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS//	167
AG/RES. 2847 (XLIV-O/14)	RECOGNITION AND PROMOTION OF THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT IN THE AMERICAS	173
AG/RES. 2848 (XLIV-O/14)	FOLLOW-UP ON THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION AND ON THE INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION	177
AG/RES. 2849 (XLIV-O/14)	ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, INTER-AMERICAN JURIDICAL COMMITTEE, AND JUSTICE STUDIES CENTER OF THE AMERICAS	181
AG/RES. 2850 (XLIV-O/14)	INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS	187
AG/RES. 2851 (XLIV-O/14)	HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS: SUPPORT FOR THE INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND ORGANIZATIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY WORKING TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE AMERICAS	191
AG/RES. 2852 (XLIV-O/14)	PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW	195
AG/RES. 2853 (XLIV-O/14)	STRENGTHENING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM OF JUDICIAL FACILITATORS	201
AG/RES. 2854 (XLIV-O/14)	SUPPORT FOR THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND ITS TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT	203
AG/RES. 2855 (XLIV-O/14)	CONVOCAION OF A MEETING OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS ON	207
LAND RIGHTS, NATURAL RESOURCES, DEVELOPMENT, AND CONSULTATION: EXPERIENCES AND CHALLENGES		207

AG/RES. 2856 (XLIV-O/14) SUPPORT FOR THE PEACE PROCESS IN COLOMBIA.....	209
AG/RES. 2857 (XLIV-O/14) PROCESS OF REFLECTION ON THE WORKINGS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS WITH A VIEW TO STRENGTHENING THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEM	211
AG/RES. 2858 (XLIV-O/14) FUND FOR PEACE: PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF TERRITORIAL DISPUTES/	213
AG/RES. 2859 (XLIV-O/14) TELECOMMUNICATIONS/INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES FOR DEVELOPMENT	217
AG/RES. 2860 (XLIV-O/14) FINANCING OF THE 2015-2016 PROGRAM-BUDGET OF THE ORGANIZATION	227
AG/RES. 2861 (XLIV-O/14) INCREASING AND STRENGTHENING THE PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES AND IN THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS	231
AG/RES. 2862 (XLIV-O/14) THE AMERICAS: A ZONE OF PEACE, COOPERATION, AND PEACEFUL DISPUTE SETTLEMENT	237
AG/RES. 2863 (XLIV-O/14) HUMAN RIGHTS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AND GENDER IDENTITY AND EXPRESSION	241
AG/RES. 2864 (XLIV-O/14) PERSONS WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED AND ASSISTANCE TO MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES	247
AG/RES. 2865 (XLIV-O/14) AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTE AND REGULATIONS OF CITEL	253
CHAPTER ONE ORGANIZATION, FUNCTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP	257
CHAPTER TWO CITEL ASSEMBLY	260
CHAPTER THREE THE PERMANENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (COM/CITEL)	264
CHAPTER FOUR PERMANENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES (PCCs)	268
CHAPTER FIVE THE SECRETARIAT	270
CHAPTER SIX EXPENSES AND FUNDS OF CITEL	271
CHAPTER SEVEN OFFICIAL AND WORKING LANGUAGES	272
CHAPTER EIGHT GENERAL PROVISIONS REGARDING THE STATUTE AND RULES OF PROCEDURES	273
CHAPTER I NATURE, ORGANIZATION AND MEMBERSHIP	283
CHAPTER II THE CITEL ASSEMBLY	285
CHAPTER III THE PERMANENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (COM/CITEL)	300
CHAPTER IV PERMANENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES (PCCs)	304
CHAPTER V THE SECRETARIAT	311
CHAPTER VI GENERAL PROVISIONS	313
AG/RES. 2866 (XLIV-O/14) ADVANCING HEMISPHERIC SECURITY: A MULTIDIMENSIONAL APPROACH/	319
AG/RES. 2867 (XLIV-O/14) DRAFT AMERICAN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES	341

AG/RES. 2868 (XLIV-O/14)	PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SEARCH FOR NEW APPROACHES AND EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES FOR ADDRESSING THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM IN THE AMERICAS	343
AG/RES. 2869 (XLIV-O/14)	FOLLOW-UP ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF COCHABAMBA ON “FOOD SECURITY WITH SOVEREIGNTY IN THE AMERICAS” ^{2/}	347
AG/RES. 2870 (XLIV-O/14)	VOTE OF APPRECIATION TO THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY	351
AG/RES. 2871 (XLIV-O/14)	PLACE AND DATE OF THE FORTY-FIFTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY	353
CHAPTER I NATURE, ORGANIZATION AND MEMBERSHIP		283
ARTICLE 1 NATURE		283
ARTICLE 2 ORGANIZATION		283
ARTICLE 3 APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP		284
ARTICLE 4 LIAISON		284
CHAPTER II THE CITEL ASSEMBLY		285
ARTICLE 5 REGULAR MEETINGS		285
ARTICLE 6 MEETING PLACE, PRINCIPLE OF ROTATION		285
ARTICLE 7 SPECIAL MEETINGS		285
ARTICLE 8 ALTERNATIVE SITE FOR THE MEETINGS		285
ARTICLE 9 NOTICE OF CONVOCAION OF MEETINGS		285
ARTICLE 10 DELEGATIONS		286
ARTICLE 11 CREDENTIALS		286
ARTICLE 12 ORDER OF PRECEDENCE		286
ARTICLE 13 PERMANENT OBSERVERS TO THE ORGANIZATION		286
ARTICLE 14 OBSERVERS FROM INTER AMERICAN SPECIALIZED ORGANIZATIONS, ORGANS OF THE OAS AND FROM INTER-AMERICAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS		287
ARTICLE 15 OBSERVERS FROM THE UNITED NATIONS		287
ARTICLE 16 OTHER OBSERVERS		287
ARTICLE 17		288
ARTICLE 18		288
ARTICLE 19 OBSERVER'S PARTICIPATION FEE		288
ARTICLE 20 GUESTS		288
ARTICLE 21		289
ARTICLE 22		289
ARTICLE 23 ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIRS		289
ARTICLE 24 DUTIES OF THE CHAIR OF THE CITEL ASSEMBLY		289

ARTICLE 25 PARTICIPATION BY THE ASSEMBLY CHAIR IN THE VOTING AND DISCUSSIONS	290
ARTICLE 26 DUTIES OF THE VICE CHAIRS ACTING AS CHAIR	290
ARTICLE 27 ABSENCE OR IMPEDIMENT OF THE CHAIR AND VICECHAIRS	290
ARTICLE 28 AGENDA OF THE REGULAR MEETINGS	290
ARTICLE 29 AGENDA OF THE SPECIAL MEETINGS.....	291
ARTICLE 30 REPORTS AND PROPOSALS.....	291
ARTICLE 31	291
ARTICLE 32 INFORMAL MEETING OF HEADS OF DELEGATIONS	291
ARTICLE 33 FIRST PLENARY SESSION	291
ARTICLE 34 ADOPTION OF DECISIONS.....	292
ARTICLE 35 DECISIONS WITH FINANCIAL REPERCUSSIONS FOR THE ORGANIZATION SHALL INCLUDE AN ESTIMATE OF THE CORRESPONDING COST.....	292
ARTICLE 36 PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SESSIONS	292
ARTICLE 37	292
ARTICLE 38	292
ARTICLE 39 STEERING COMMITTEE	292
ARTICLE 40 CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE.....	293
ARTICLE 41 STYLE COMMITTEE.....	293
ARTICLE 42 DRAFTING COMMITTEE	293
ARTICLE 43 WORKING COMMITTEES	293
ARTICLE 44 SUBCOMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS	294
ARTICLE 45	294
ARTICLE 46 PROPOSALS AND AMENDMENTS	294
ARTICLE 47 WITHDRAWALS OF PROPOSALS.....	295
ARTICLE 48 RECONSIDERATION OF DECISIONS	295
ARTICLE 49 POINTS OF ORDER.....	295
ARTICLE 50 SUSPENSION OF DISCUSSION.....	295
ARTICLE 51 CLOSING OF DISCUSSION	295
ARTICLE 52 SUSPENSION OR ADJOURNMENT OF A SESSION	296
ARTICLE 53 ORDER OF PROCEDURAL MOTIONS.....	296
ARTICLE 54 GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR ALL THE DELIBERATIVE BODIES OF THE CITEL ASSEMBLY MEETING	296
ARTICLE 55 VOTING ON PROPOSALS	296
ARTICLE 56 ABSTENTIONS	297
ARTICLE 57 TIES	297
ARTICLE 58 REPEAT VOTE	297
ARTICLE 59	297
ARTICLE 60	297
ARTICLE 61	297
ARTICLE 62	298
ARTICLE 63	298
ARTICLE 64	298
ARTICLE 65 SUMMARY MINUTES.....	298
ARTICLE 66 SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITIES.....	298
ARTICLE 67 FILING OF DOCUMENTS	299

CHAPTER III THE PERMANENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (COM/CITEL)	300
ARTICLE 68 LENGTH OF TERM	300
ARTICLE 69 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES OF COM/CITEL	300
ARTICLE 70 FUNCTIONS	300
ARTICLE 71 WORK PROGRAM	300
ARTICLE 72 DUTIES OF THE CHAIR	300
ARTICLE 73 ORDER OF SUCCESSION	301
ARTICLE 74 HEADQUARTERS OF COM/CITEL	301
ARTICLE 75	302
ARTICLE 76	302
ARTICLE 77	302
ARTICLE 78	302
ARTICLE 79	303
CHAPTER IV PERMANENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES (PCC).....	304
ARTICLE 80	304
ARTICLE 81 DUTIES OF THE CHAIR OF A PCC	304
ARTICLE 82 CHAIR'S OFFICE	305
ARTICLE 83 WORKING GROUPS, AD HOC GROUPS AND RAPPORTEURSHIPS	305
ARTICLE 84 MEMBERS	305
ARTICLE 85 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	306
ARTICLE 86 PARTICIPATION OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	307
ARTICLE 87 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP FEE	307
ARTICLE 88 OBSERVERS AND GUESTS	308
ARTICLE 89	309
ARTICLE 90 DECISIONS	310
CHAPTER V THE SECRETARIAT	311
ARTICLE 91	311
ARTICLE 92 THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF CITEL	311
CHAPTER VI GENERAL PROVISIONS	313
ARTICLE 93	313
ARTICLE 94 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND AGENDAS	313
ARTICLE 95 CONDUCT OF MEETINGS AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT	316
ARTICLE 96 WORKING PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PCC	316
ARTICLE 97	318
ARTICLE 98	319
ARTICLE 99 ENTRY INTO FORCE.....	319
ARTICLE 100 AMENDMENTS TO THE REGULATIONS.....	319
ARTICLE 101 SUSPENSION OF PROVISIONS FROM CHAPTER II	319
ARTICLE 102 UNREGULATED MATTERS	320
ANNEX NAMES OF THE PERMANENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES	321

REGULATIONS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATION COMMISSION (CITEL)

CHAPTER I NATURE, ORGANIZATION AND MEMBERSHIP

Article 1 Nature

1. CITEL is governed by its Statute and these Regulations. The Regulations complement the Statute, which was approved by Resolution of the OAS General Assembly, and serve to provide more specific rules for the operation, administration, and procedures of CITEL for the achievement of its purposes and objectives.
2. In case of conflict between the Statute and these Regulations, the Statute shall take precedence.
3. The technical autonomy of CITEL, established pursuant to the Statute, includes:
 - a. The capacity and competence to freely program its activities within the scope of Article 1 of the Statute;
 - b. A direct technical relationship with the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (hereafter “the Organization”) notwithstanding its obligation to submit its Annual Report of activities to the Permanent Council of the Organization, so that the Council has the opportunity to present its observations and recommendations to the General Assembly pursuant to Article 91(f) of the Charter of the Organization;
 - c. Direct contact with the Secretary General of the Organization for all administrative and budgetary matters;
 - d. Competence to establish relations with other international organizations that participate in the development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICT) (hereinafter telecommunications/ICT) throughout the American States; and
 - e. Participation in the planning of technical assistance to CITEL members.

Article 2 Organization

CITEL fulfills its objectives through: the CITEL Assembly, the Permanent Executive Committee (COM/CITEL), the Permanent Consultative Committees, and the Secretariat. The aforementioned shall include such committees, sub-committees, working groups and ad hoc groups, joint working groups and rapporteurships as may be established in accordance with these Regulations.

Article 3
Applications for Membership

Any American State which is not a member of the Organization and wants to join CITELE must submit its membership request to the Secretary General of the Organization, who shall transmit it to COM/CITELE for study and recommendation before it is considered by the CITELE Assembly and approved by the General Assembly of the Organization.

Article 4
Liaison

Each Member State shall notify the Executive Secretary of CITELE, in writing, within thirty days of the termination of the Regular Meeting of the CITELE Assembly, the name of the institution and the person within the institution that will serve as the official liaison between CITELE and that Member State with respect to telecommunications/ICT. The person appointed shall serve as the official to whom and from whom, official correspondence shall be addressed and exchanged, including all notices, technical contributions to meetings, reports of meetings, and accreditation letters.

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CHAPTER II THE CITEL ASSEMBLY

A. MEETINGS

Article 5 Regular Meetings

CITEL shall schedule the Regular Meeting of the CITEL Assembly, preferably every four years, during the first quarter of the year. The Regular Meetings shall be numbered consecutively.

Article 6 Meeting Site, Principle of Rotation

Any Member State that wishes to host the next regular meeting of the Assembly shall give sufficient notification of its offer to the Secretariat of CITEL.

In application of the principle of rotation in selecting the country where a Regular Meeting of the CITEL Assembly is to take place, it is understood that the Regular Meeting shall not be held in the territory of a Member State if another Member State in which fewer meetings have been held should offer its territory for this purpose. Recognized regional affinities shall also be considered when applying the principle of rotation, e.g. North America, Central America, Andean, Caribbean Region, or other distinguishable regional affinities.

Article 7 Special Meetings

In special circumstances, at the initiative of the General Assembly of the Organization, on the recommendation of any Council of the Organization, or at the initiative of COM/CITEL, the CITEL Assembly may hold a Special Meeting to consider specific matters, if those matters are of such importance as to preclude waiting for the next Regular Meeting of the Assembly. COM/CITEL will convene and set the date and place for such Special Meeting, subject to available funding.

Article 8 Alternative Site for the Meetings

If for any reason a regular or special meeting of the CITEL Assembly cannot be held in a selected country, it shall be held at the General Secretariat of the Organization headquarters, unless one of the Member States, with sufficient advance notice, offers to host the Assembly, in which case COM/CITEL may agree to hold the meeting in that country.

Article 9 Notice of Convocation of Meetings

The Secretary General of the Organization, or by delegation, the CITEL Executive Secretary, shall transmit the notice of convocation of the CITEL Assembly Meeting and the invitations to the

participants as soon as the country offering to host the Assembly confirms to the CITEL Secretariat the exact date, city and specific location for the meeting, and that it has available sufficient funds for that purpose. The country offering to host the Assembly shall provide this information to the Executive Secretary, no later than sixty days before the proposed date of the meeting.

B. PARTICIPANTS

Article 10 Delegations

“Delegation” means the person or persons designated as representatives of a country to participate in the Assembly. If the delegation is composed of more than one delegate, a head of delegation shall be designated.

Each head of delegation may delegate his duties to the alternate head, or if there is none, to any other member of the delegation. Each Member State shall endeavor to designate to its delegations representatives who are versed in telecommunications/ICT. Delegations shall have the right to participate with voice and vote, in all public and private meetings of the Assembly, including its committees, subcommittees, working groups and ad hoc groups, in accordance with these Regulations and any special Rules of Procedure adopted for such meetings.

Article 11 Credentials

Accreditation of the members of each delegation shall be made by the respective governments by means of written communications to the Executive Secretary, granting the delegates full powers to participate in the decisions on subjects included in the agenda of the sessions of the Assembly.

Article 12 Order of Precedence

At the informal session prior to the opening session of the Assembly, the delegations shall establish by lot an order of precedence for the delegations. This order of precedence shall be used for the delegations' location in the meeting room, in the voting process and in the use of the floor whenever the delegations are requested to give their opinions on some subject-matter. The host delegation shall not be included in the “by lot” procedure and shall hold last place in the order of precedence.

Article 13 Permanent Observers to the Organization

1. States that are Permanent Observers to the Organization shall enjoy the same status in the CITEL and any of its organs. They shall accredit their respective representatives to participate in the meetings of the CITEL Assembly, by means of a written communication addressed to the Executive Secretary.

2. The representatives of the Permanent Observers may attend the public sessions of the CITEL Assembly Meetings, and of its principal committees and, when invited by the corresponding presiding

officer, the private sessions. With the permission of the presiding officer, Permanent Observers may speak at any meeting.

Article 14

Observers from Inter -American Specialized Organizations, Organs of the OAS, and Inter-American Intergovernmental Regional Organizations

Representatives of Inter American specialized organizations and organs of the OAS, and Inter-American intergovernmental regional organizations may attend the CITEL Assembly as observers. With the permission of the presiding officer, those representatives may speak at the meeting or address the meeting in writing.

Article 15

Observers from the United Nations

Representatives of the United Nations and its specialized agencies may attend the Meetings of the CITEL Assembly as observers. With the permission of the presiding officer, they may speak at the meeting or address the meeting in writing.

Article 16

Other Observers

1. International and national organizations that are parties to agreements or arrangements establishing relations of cooperation with the Organization, its organs, organizations or agencies may also attend the CITEL Assembly meetings when such agreements or arrangements provide for the participation of observers.
2. Subject to COM/CITEL's approval, the following may send observers to the CITEL Assembly:
 - a. American States that are not Members or Permanent Observers of the Organization who have asked to participate in the meeting.
 - b. Non-American States that are Members of the United Nations or its specialized agencies who have asked to participate in the meeting.
 - c. International, regional, subregional, and national agencies and organizations that are involved in telecommunications/ICT activities in the region who have asked to participate in the meeting.
3. The observers referred to in this Article may speak at the plenary session of the CITEL Assembly or at the sessions of its principal committees, only when invited to do so by the corresponding presiding officer, because of special interest or expertise in a specific topic of discussion. Similarly, such observers may provide written statements on such topics when expressly authorized or requested to do so by the presiding officer.

4. The participation of the observers referred to in this Article, before the CITEL Assembly, is without prejudice to the status that they may have, as associate members of the PCC, in accordance with Article 85 of the Regulations

Article 17

Active associate members may attend the public sessions of the CITEL Assembly as observers. The observers referred to in this Article may speak at the plenary sessions of the CITEL Assembly or at the sessions of its principal committees only when invited to do so by the corresponding presiding officer because of special interest or expertise in a specific topic of discussion. Similarly, such observers may provide written statements on such topics when expressly authorized or requested to do so by the presiding officer.

Article 18

Unless otherwise specified by COM/CITEL, any State or entity referred to in Article 16 that wishes to participate in a meeting of the CITEL Assembly as an observer, shall apply to attend, in writing, to the Chair of COM/CITEL, at least sixty days before the anticipated opening of that meeting of the CITEL Assembly. The Chair of COM/CITEL shall consult such applications with the Members of COM/CITEL, and if they approve, the corresponding invitations shall be extended in accordance with Article 9 of these Regulations.

Article 19

Observer's Participation Fee

1. Distribution of documents of the meetings of the CITEL Assembly to the categories of observers identified in Articles 13, 14 and 15 of these Regulations, shall be governed by the applicable principles, practices and rules of the Organization.
2. Distribution of documents of the meetings of the Assembly to the observers identified in Article 16 shall be conditioned upon payment of a fee to cover the administrative cost of that category of observer's participation in the meeting. This fee, called a "participation fee", shall be equivalent to 15% of the "contributory unit" corresponding to an associate member.
3. Notwithstanding the foregoing, COM/CITEL may decide to exempt payment of the participation fee by any observer, covered by Article 16, where CITEL is exempted from making similar payments to that observer, on the basis of reciprocity.

Article 20

Guests

Subject to COM/CITEL's approval and in consultation with the government of the host country, any person or entity not covered in Article 16, that is a recognized authority or that has a particular interest in the field of telecommunications/ICT, may attend the meetings of the CITEL Assembly as a guest. COM/CITEL will develop guidelines to determine qualifications for guests.

Article 21

Individuals or entities wishing to participate as guests to a meeting of the CITELE Assembly, under Article 20, should apply in writing to the Chair of COM/CITELE no later than forty five days prior to the scheduled start of the CITELE Assembly meeting. The Chair of COM/CITELE will consult with COM/CITELE members and, with their consent, extend the corresponding invitations pursuant to Article 9 of these Regulations, unless the Government of the host country objects.

Article 22

Guests may attend the plenary meetings and the meetings of the committees for the sole purpose of following the discussions. However, they may take part in committee discussions only if they are requested to do so by the Chair of the Committee and there is no objection from any Member State present. Guests shall not receive copies of contributions, papers or reports of the proceedings, unless COM/CITELE decides to provide the documents to a guest when it approves an invitation.

C. ASSEMBLY OFFICERS

Article 23

Election of the Chair and Vice Chairs

The Assembly Chair and both Vice Chairs shall be elected in the first plenary session, in accordance with the procedures outlined in Article 8 of the Statute. These officials will remain in office until the Assembly is adjourned.

Article 24

Duties of the Chair of the CITELE Assembly

1. The Assembly Chair shall:
 - a. Convoke plenary sessions;
 - b. Establish the order of business of the sessions;
 - c. Open and close the plenary sessions and direct their discussions;
 - d. Grant the floor to the participants in the order in which they request it, giving precedence to representatives of the Member States when appropriate;
 - e. Put the topics under discussion to a vote, and announce the decisions taken;
 - f. Rule on points of order being submitted to the Assembly for consideration;
 - g. Establish the working committees, and
 - h. In general, ensure compliance with these Regulations.

2. When any speaker departs from the topic under discussion the Assembly Chair may draw this to his attention. Likewise, during the discussion of a topic, the Chair may propose limitation of the time to be allowed to speakers, limitation of the number of times a participant may speak, closure of the list of speakers, or closure of discussion. He may also propose the suspension or adjournment of a session, or postponement of discussion of the matter under consideration.

Article 25

Participation by the Assembly Chair in Voting and Discussion

The Assembly Chair shall not participate from the chair in a substantive discussion, nor shall vote on any matter before the plenary sessions of the Assembly.

Article 26

Duties of the Vice Chairs Acting as Chair

If the Chair is absent from a session or from part of it, one of the Vice Chairs shall take his place, according to the order of precedence, and shall enjoy the same powers and duties as the Chair.

Article 27

Absence or Impediment of the Chair and Vice Chairs

In the event of the absence or impediment of the Chair and the Vice Chairs of the CITEL Assembly, the Meeting shall be presided over by one of the Chairmen of the working committees, in accordance with the order in which those committees are numbered.

D. AGENDA

Article 28

Agendas for Regular Meetings

1. COM/CITEL shall prepare a preliminary agenda for each Regular Meeting of the CITEL Assembly, to be provided to the Member States for their consideration at least three months in advance of the anticipated opening of the Assembly.
2. In preparing the preliminary agenda, COM/CITEL shall take into account the topics proposed by the governments of the Member States, those mandated by the General Assembly of the Organization, and may take into consideration those recommended by other organs of the Organization.
3. The Member States shall have thirty days to present their observations on the preliminary agenda to the Chair of COM/CITEL. On the basis of these observations, COM/CITEL shall draw-up the agenda for the Assembly meeting.
4. The agenda so approved may be amended or otherwise modified only during the Regular Meeting of the CITEL Assembly by a vote of two thirds of the participating Member States.

Article 29
Agendas for Special Meetings

The agenda of each Special Meeting of the CITEI Assembly shall be confined to the subject or subjects for which the Meeting was convoked. The procedures and time periods for the preparation of the agenda of a Special Meeting shall be established in each case by COM/CITEI.

Article 30
Reports and Proposals

In general, the CITEI Assembly shall consider two kinds of papers: reports and proposals. Reports shall be informative in nature, while proposals shall be submitted to the Assembly for its consideration. During an Assembly meeting, other forms of work or technical contributions may be requested. The documents thus submitted shall not include any information of a promotional or commercial nature.

Article 31

Reports and proposals shall normally be presented to the Executive Secretary fifteen days in advance of the date set for the opening of the CITEI Assembly, in order to permit their distribution to the Member States in CITEI working languages, together with the report of COM/CITEI and that of the Secretariat. Documents that do not meet the deadlines set in this Article will be presented at the meeting of heads of delegation to determine whether they are to be considered as information or working documents during said meeting. The Executive Secretary shall make such documents available to the Member States as they are received, by the most suitable means, before the start of a meeting.

E. SESSIONS

Article 32
Informal Meeting of Heads of Delegations

Prior to the inaugural session, the heads of delegations of the Member States or their alternates shall meet informally, upon being called together by the Chair of COM/CITEI, to agree on the various aspects concerning the organization of the work of the CITEI Assembly.

Article 33
First Plenary Session

The first plenary session shall be held as soon as possible after the CITEI Assembly Meeting has been inaugurated. At that session, the CITEI Assembly shall elect its officers, and establish the committees referred to in Chapter II section F of these Regulations. Immediately thereafter the working committees shall be installed and their respective officers elected.

Article 34
Adoption of Decisions

The CITELE Assembly shall adopt its decisions in the form of resolutions, recommendations and declarations, at its plenary sessions. The Secretariat shall distribute those decisions immediately after their adoption.

Article 35

Decisions with financial repercussions for the Organization shall include an estimate of the corresponding cost.

Article 36
Public and Private Sessions

1. Plenary sessions at the Assembly and of the working committees shall be public. However, if the Chair so provides or any representative Member State so requests, the session shall be private, and shall so continue unless the members participating in the session decide otherwise.
2. Private Sessions may only be attended by the heads of delegations of the Member States, the members of the delegations designated by those heads and such Secretariat personnel as the Chair of the respective body may expressly authorize in each case.

Article 37

All decisions taken by the CITELE Assembly in a private plenary session shall be announced at the next public plenary session.

Article 38

No plenary, committee, subcommittee, ad hoc group, or working group session shall be held unless the place and time have been announced to participants sufficiently in advance to permit them to attend.

F. COMMITTEES

Article 39
Steering Committee

1. The Steering Committee is made up of the Chair of the CITELE Assembly, who shall preside over it, the two Vice Chairs, and the Chairmen of the working committees.
2. The Chair of the CITELE Assembly shall convoke the Steering Committee whenever he deems it desirable for the best performance of the work of the Assembly.
3. The task of the Steering Committee is to resolve any difficulties that may arise regarding the functioning of the CITELE Assembly and to suggest appropriate solutions to the committees or to a

plenary session. For the effective operation of the CITELE Assembly, it shall coordinate the work of the working committees.

Article 40
Credentials Committee

1. The Credentials Committee is composed of the representatives of three member states elected at the first plenary session of the CITELE Assembly. The Committee shall elect its Chair.
2. The Credentials Committee shall examine the credentials of the delegations and submit a report, before the election of the COM/CITELE members and Chairs of the PCCs, to the CITELE Assembly forthwith.

Article 41
Style Committee

1. The Style Committee is composed of the representatives of four Member States elected at the first plenary session of the CITELE Assembly, each of which shall represent one of the four languages.
2. The Style Committee shall receive the drafts of resolutions and recommendations adopted by committees before they are submitted to a plenary session of the Assembly for its consideration, and shall introduce in them such style changes as it deems necessary. If the Style Committee notes that a draft suffers from defects of form that it cannot correct, then it shall raise the question with the committee concerned, or at a plenary session of the Assembly.

Article 42
Drafting Committee

The Drafting Committee for the working sessions of the Plenary meetings and for the Final Report of the Assembly, shall be designated during the first Plenary Session and shall be composed of the first four delegates by order of precedence who volunteer. The Drafting Committee shall draft the minutes of the meeting of the informal session, of each Plenary session, of the inaugural and closing sessions, as well as the Final Report of the Assembly. The Committee shall present to each Plenary Session a draft report of all preceding sessions.

Article 43
Working Committees

1. The CITELE Assembly shall establish such working committees as it deems desirable for consideration of the various topics on the agenda.
2. A working committee is made up of the delegations of the Member States that advise the Chair of the CITELE Assembly before the first working meeting of the committee, that they wish to take part in that committee.
3. The meeting establishing each working committee shall be held with the delegations that up to the time of the meeting, have expressed their desire to form part of it.
4. Each working committee shall elect a Chair, and may also elect a vice-Chair and a rapporteur.

5. Each working committee shall study the topics assigned to it by the CITEL Assembly and shall present to the plenary session a report on its discussions, the draft resolutions or proposals considered, and its recommendations.

Article 44 Subcommittees and Working Groups

1. Each working committee may establish such subcommittees and/or working or drafting groups, as it considers advisable. A working committee may also authorize its Chair to appoint to the subcommittees or groups, members who reflect the different views that have been expressed on the matters which the subcommittee or group is to consider.

2. Each subcommittee may establish such working or drafting groups as it may consider necessary. The Chair of each such group shall present to the body that established it, its conclusions or recommendations.

3. Delegations that are not members of a subcommittee, working group, or drafting group, shall have the right to participate in the meetings of these bodies with voice but without vote.

G. QUORUM

Article 45

1. For Plenary Sessions, the presence of more than half of the Member States shall constitute a quorum.

2. For committees, subcommittees, and working groups of the CITEL Assembly, the presence of more than half of the members of the body concerned shall constitute a quorum.

H. DEBATES AND PROCEDURES

Article 46 Proposals and Amendments

Proposals

1. Proposals must be presented in writing to the Secretariat by the Member State delegations no later than the day before the session at which they are to be discussed or submitted to a vote, in order to be distributed in the CITEL working languages to participating Member States before deliberation of them begins. However, if no Member State objects, the Chair of the body that is required to deal with the matter may authorize discussion of a proposal that was not duly distributed in time and form.

2. The delegation that presents a proposal shall indicate the working committee that should study it, unless the proposal is one that is required to be submitted to a plenary session for discussion. In case of doubt, the Chair of the Assembly shall decide.

Amendments

3. Motions to amend a proposal may be made during the deliberations on the proposal.
4. A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from, or revises part of a proposal. A motion that would totally replace the original proposal, or that is not directly related to it, shall not be considered as an amendment.

Article 47 Withdrawals of Proposals

A proposal or an amendment may be withdrawn by its proponent before it has been put to vote. Any delegate may present again a proposal or amendment that has been withdrawn.

Article 48 Reconsideration of Decisions

Proposals concerning decisions that have already been taken may be reconsidered, if a request to do so is made prior to the adjournment of the session at which the proposal was voted upon, or at the session immediately following. In the case of a motion for reconsideration, the floor shall be granted to one speaker to second the motion and to two other speakers to oppose it, after which the motion shall be submitted to a vote. For approval of such a motion, the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the body concerned is required. When the motion for reconsideration has been approved, the discussion and vote on the substance of the matter shall be governed by the applicable provisions of these Regulations.

Article 49 Points of Order

During the discussion of a matter, any delegation may raise a point of order, which shall be decided upon immediately by the Chair. Any representative of a delegation may appeal the decision of the Chair, in which case the appeal shall be put to a vote. When raising a point of order, a representative may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Article 50 Suspension of Discussion

The Chair or any representative of a delegation may make a motion that discussion be suspended. Only two such representatives may speak briefly in favor of such a motion and two against it, after which it shall be immediately put to a vote.

Article 51 Close of Discussion

1. Any representative of a delegation may make a motion that debate be closed when he/she considers that a topic has been discussed sufficiently. This motion may be opposed by two representatives of delegations, after which it shall be declared approved if it receives the vote of two-

thirds of the delegations present at the session. The Chair may limit the time allowed to speakers under this Article.

2. The Chair may close the debate if he/she considers that it has become repetitive, or if it no longer addresses the issue at hand. In this case, the Chair shall take into consideration the issues which have up to then obtained consensus and establish the way in which the meeting shall proceed. Two delegations may speak briefly against such a decision, after which it shall be declared approved if it receives the vote of two-thirds of the delegations present at the session.

Article 52 Suspension or Adjournment of a Session

During the discussion of any topic, a representative of a delegation may make a motion that the session be suspended or adjourned. Such motions shall be put to a vote immediately, without discussion. The Chair may limit the length of the remarks of the representative who proposes suspension or adjournment of the session.

Article 53 Order of Procedural Motions

Except as provided in Article 48, the following motions shall have precedence over all other proposals or motions, in the order set forth below:

- a. Suspension of the session.
- b. Adjournment of the session.
- c. Suspension of discussion of the topic under consideration.
- d. Close of the debate of the topic under consideration.

Article 54 General Provisions for All the Deliberative Bodies of the CITEI Assembly Meeting

The general provisions relating to discussion contained in this chapter shall be applicable to the plenary sessions, and to the committees, subcommittees, and working groups of the CITEI Assembly.

I. VOTING

Article 55 Voting on Proposals

Once debate is closed, and if the proposals presented are not approved by consensus, those proposals, together with any proposed amendments, shall be put to a vote. Proposals shall be voted upon in the order in which they are presented, unless the respective body decides to the contrary. After the Chair has announced the start of the voting, no representative may interrupt it, except for a point of

order relating to the manner in which the voting is being conducted. The process of voting and vote-counting shall end when the Chair announces the result.

Article 56
Abstentions

For the purpose of establishing the necessary majority, abstentions shall be counted as votes cast.

Article 57
Ties

In the event of a tie, the proposal voted on shall be considered to have been rejected.

Article 58
Repeat Vote

Should any doubt arise as to the results of a vote, any delegation may request that the vote be repeated immediately. The new vote shall be limited to the same delegations that took part in the original vote.

Article 59

When an amendment to a proposal is presented, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments to a proposal are made, the CITELE Assembly shall take a vote first on the one that departs furthest from the original text. The other amendments shall be voted upon in like order. In case of doubt in this regard, they shall be voted upon in the order of their presentation.

Article 60

When the adoption of an amendment necessarily implies the exclusion of another, the latter amendment shall not be put to a vote. If one or more of the amendments are adopted, the complete proposal as amended shall be put to a vote.

Article 61

If any delegation so requests, a proposal or amendment shall be put to a vote by parts. If any delegation is opposed to that request, the body concerned shall decide whether the voting should be by parts. If the request for voting by parts is accepted, the various parts of the proposal or amendment that are accepted shall be voted upon as a whole. If all the operative parts of a proposal or amendment are rejected, it shall be deemed that it has been rejected entirely.

J. ELECTIONS

Article 62

If no candidate obtains the vote of an absolute majority of the participating Member States on the first ballot, a second, or if necessary a third ballot shall be taken, limited to the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes. If after the third ballot no candidate has obtained the required majority, the election shall be suspended for a period of up to twenty-four hours. When the election is resumed, up to two additional ballots shall be taken. If neither of the two candidates is elected, the balloting procedure established in this Article shall be started again, with respect to the candidates who are presented.

Article 63

When two or more elected posts are to be filled at the same time and under the same conditions, the candidates obtaining the vote of an absolute majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of persons or members to be elected, there shall be additional ballots to fill the remaining posts, the voting being limited to the candidates who have received the most votes on the previous ballot, in such a way that the number of candidates will not be more than twice the number of posts remaining to be filled.

Article 64

In case of a tie among two or more candidates or Member States, as the case may be, who have received at least the required majority, if the number of places to be filled is less than the number of candidates or Member States who have received the same number of votes, another ballot shall be taken. If the tie is not broken in this second ballot, the elections shall be decided by lot.

K. DOCUMENTS

Article 65

Summary Minutes

Summary minutes shall be kept of the open plenary sessions and of the open committee meetings of the CITELE Assembly. The Secretariat of CITELE shall distribute the summary minutes to the delegations as promptly as possible. The delegations shall present to the Secretariat, within twenty-four hours following the distribution of the summary minutes, any corrections of style they consider necessary. The minutes so corrected and the appendices shall be published as part of the official documentation of the CITELE Assembly. The appendices of the summary minutes shall contain the complete statement of a delegation if the delegation so requests.

Article 66

Summary of the Activities

After the close of the Assembly Meeting, the Secretariat shall prepare and distribute the final report of the Assembly, containing a summary of the activities carried out by it, which shall include

background information on the Assembly; the list of officers of the Assembly and of the Committees, Subcommittees, Working groups and ad hoc groups; the official list of participants; a brief summary of the sessions held, and the decisions adopted by the Assembly in their final form. This document shall be prepared in the four official languages. For this purpose, the Secretariat may request the advice of the delegations to the Permanent Council of the Organization that represent the countries where those languages are spoken, and of COM/CITEL.

Article 67
Filing of Documents

The Secretariat shall be the custodian of the official documents and files of the meetings of the Assembly. The Chair of COM/CITEL shall keep in his possession copies of all these documents and files.

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CHAPTER III
THE PERMANENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (COM/CITEL)

Article 68
Length of Term

The Officers and members of COM/CITEL shall occupy their positions until the election of the new members at the next Regular Meeting of the CITEL Assembly.

Article 69
Appointment of Representatives of COM/CITEL

The institution designated to act on behalf of each Member State elected to COM/CITEL, shall appoint a principal representative and an alternate representative, both of them specialized in telecommunications/ICT matters, and the Member State may replace them as it deems advisable. The names of the representatives shall be communicated in writing to the Executive Secretary as soon as they are appointed.

Article 70
Functions

The functions of COM/CITEL are set out in Article 17 of the Statute.

Article 71
Work Program

1. COM/CITEL shall prepare, at each meeting, its work program for the intervening period until its next meeting, and shall set the date and place for its meetings
2. COM/CITEL may establish technical committees, subcommittees, working groups and ad hoc groups, joint working groups and rapporteurships to perform its functions.

Article 72
Duties of the Chair

The Chair of COM/CITEL is an ex officio member of all committees of CITEL and shall have the following duties in addition to those identified in the Statute:

- a. To preside provisionally over the Regular and Special Meetings of the CITEL Assembly until the Chair of the Assembly is elected.
- b. To represent CITEL before other organs of the Organization, the governmental telecommunications/ICT entities of the CITEL Members, and other organizations that participate in telecommunications/ICT development activities in the American States.
- c. To see that the functions of COM/CITEL, as provided in Article 17 of the Statute, are performed.

- d. In cooperation with the Executive Secretary, to draw up the agendas for the meetings of COM/CITEL, in consultation with the other members.
- e. To speak for COM/CITEL to the Secretary General of the Organization, and to communicate to him the decisions that COM/CITEL has adopted.
- f. To communicate through the Executive Secretary with the governments of the Member States of CITEL and institutions interested in the objectives of CITEL regarding matters relating to the functioning of CITEL.
- g. To represent CITEL, when COM/CITEL so authorizes him, at public functions and at meetings of international organizations, with authority to delegate this representation to another member of COM/CITEL.
- h. Through the Executive Secretary of CITEL, to present to the Secretary General of the Organization an annual progress report on the activities of CITEL to comply with Article 91 (f) of the Charter of the Organization.
- i. With the assistance of the Executive Secretary, to make known and to coordinate on behalf of COM/CITEL, the work of the technical committees, and working groups established by COM/CITEL and see that it is carried out.
- j. To coordinate the work of the Permanent Consultative Committees, and to see that it is carried out.

Article 73 Order of Succession

In the event of temporary impediment of the Chair of COM/CITEL to serve, the Vice-Chair shall replace him/her. In the event of impediment of both, the eldest of the Chairs of the Permanent Consultative Committees shall exercise the duties of the Chair while the impediment lasts.

Article 74 Headquarters of COM/CITEL

1. The Member State elected to preside over COM/CITEL shall organize and maintain during its term, at its sole expense, and under the exclusive responsibility of the Chair, an office composed of a full time assistant to the Chair, and all necessary technical and administrative personnel. In addition, that Member State shall provide premises for the office and for meetings, as well as other suitable work facilities for the best possible performance of COM/CITEL's duties and responsibilities. For all purposes, the office shall be responsible exclusively to the Chair of COM/CITEL, and shall not be dependent upon the General Secretariat of the Organization.

2. The Chair of COM/CITEL shall maintain close cooperative and working relations with the Executive Secretary for purposes of coordination and liaison, as well as for the best possible performance of the various tasks of COM/CITEL. The Chair of COM/CITEL shall send copies of all official correspondence sent or received by him to the Executive Secretary.

Article 75

When COM/CITEL establishes a technical committee, subcommittee, a working group, or an ad hoc group, that committee, subcommittee or group shall have its headquarters in the country selected to preside over it. as in the case of the headquarters of COM/CITEL, the country concerned shall provide, at its expense, the staff and the necessary facilities for the performance of its functions.

Article 76

The rules governing COM/CITEL meetings, quorum, voting and travel expenses are those contained in Articles 18 to 21 of the Statute

Article 77

1. COM/CITEL shall adopt its decisions in the form of resolutions, recommendations, or decisions at its plenary sessions.
2. In order to ensure their due deliberation, all draft resolutions, recommendations or decisions presented must be distributed in writing in the CITEL working languages to participating delegations, before the start of the session in which they are to be debated or submitted to a vote. However, if there is no objection on the part of any COM/CITEL Member State present at the meeting, a proposal written in only one of the working languages of CITEL may be discussed and decided upon.
3. If for any reason a regular Meeting of COM/CITEL cannot be held in the country of the Chairperson, it shall be held at the General Secretariat of the Organization headquarters, unless one of the Member states, with sufficient advance notice, offers to host the meeting, in which case COM/CITEL may agree to hold the meeting in that country. In the event special meetings are held, they may be attendance-based or on-line.
4. The General Secretary of the Organization, or by delegation, the CITEL Executive Secretary, shall transmit the notice of the convocation of the Meeting and the invitations to the participants as soon as the country offering to host a meeting confirms to the CITEL Secretariat the exact date, city and specific location for the meeting, and that it has available sufficient funds for that purpose. The country offering to host the meeting shall provide this information to the Executive Secretary no later than sixty days before the proposed date of the meeting.
5. Observers in the categories stipulated in Articles 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 may attend COM/CITEL meetings as observers on the same conditions as those established in the Regulations for their participation in the CITEL Assembly meetings.

Article 78

When, in view of their urgency, matters to be resolved cannot be left until its next meeting, COM/CITEL may approve resolutions, recommendations, or decisions electronically. Such resolutions, recommendations, or decisions shall be approved in keeping with such procedures as may be adopted

by COM/CITEL for that purpose. The CITEL Secretariat shall keep a written record of the consultation made and its results, and shall inform the Chair and the other members COM/CITEL thereof.

Article 79

COM/CITEL may invite representatives of associate members to participate in its Working Groups because of a special interest or expertise in a specific topic pertaining to the mandate of the working group.

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CHAPTER IV
PERMANENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES (PCCs)

A. ORGANIZATION AND OFFICERS

Article 80

1. The CITEL Assembly shall establish the Permanent Consultative Committees (PCCs) that it considers necessary to attain the objectives defined in Article 3 of the Statute together with specific mandates for each PCC. For the selection of countries to host meetings of the PCCs, the principles of rotation and equitable geographic distribution shall be observed to the extent possible. A PCC shall continue in force until such time as the CITEL Assembly itself, or COM/CITEL, deems its functions and purpose to be concluded. The names of the PCCs are listed in Annex 1 of these Regulations.

2. The host countries of the PCCs may submit their candidacy for one re-election only. A Member State may not submit its candidacy for a second re-election, if another Member State – which has been elected fewer times – should present its candidacy.

3. Each PCC shall be presided over by the representative appointed by the government of the host country for the PCC. Each PCC may establish up to three vice chairmanships to assist the Chair in the performance of his duties. The Chair of each PCC shall recommend to the PCC the number of Vice Chairs he deems appropriate, taking into account insofar as possible an equitable geographical distribution. The countries from which a Vice-Chair is appointed, may host an additional meeting of the PCC in a given year, and in such case, will be responsible for providing meeting sites, personnel, and administrative support for the meeting.

4. Each PCC shall determine its internal work structure, which must fully comply with the provisions of the Statute and these Regulations.

Article 81
Duties of the Chair of a PCC

The Chair of a PCC shall:

- a. Convene the PCC through the Executive Secretary at least once a year and designate the place and date for the meeting.
- b. Direct the work of the PCC, prepare the material for meetings, as well as studies, decisions, and draft resolutions, and send them to the Chair of COM/CITEL for information and to the Executive Secretary for processing.
- c. Report PCC work results, in writing, every six months, to the Executive Secretary and to the Chair of COM/CITEL.
- d. Report to the CITEL Assembly on matters within the competence of the PCC.

- e. Ensure that the Working Groups, Ad Hoc Groups, and Rapporteurships established, as well as the coordination tasks assigned, operate in accordance with the working procedures that govern PCC activities, as provided in Article 96.
- f. Seek to ensure that all decisions taken by the PCC Plenary are consensus decisions.
- g. Confirm that the quorum provided for in the regulations is present at the meeting.
- h. Inform the Executive Secretary and the Chair of COM/CITEL about the contribution of the PCC's work to the Strategic Plan of CITEL.

Article 82
Chair's Office

The Member State elected to preside over a PCC shall organize, and maintain at its sole expense, and under the exclusive responsibility of the Chair, an office composed of the necessary technical and administrative personnel. For all purposes, this office shall be responsible exclusively to the Chair of the PCC and shall not be dependent in any way upon the General Secretariat of the Organization.

Article 83
Working Groups, Ad Hoc Groups and Rapporteurships

1. Each PCC may establish working groups and ad hoc groups in accordance with Article 96. Those groups shall submit reports of their activities to the corresponding PCC.
2. PCC shall also establish rapporteurships and appoint rapporteurs for their working groups and ad hoc groups in order to deal with the issues entrusted to said groups. The rapporteurs shall submit their reports to the working groups or ad hoc groups to which they belong.
3. The PCC shall elect the chairs, vice chairs, and rapporteurs from among those candidates who represent a Member State or an associate member. If the representative designated as chair, vice-chair, or rapporteur is no longer able to represent the corresponding Member State or associate member, the aforementioned Member shall designate another representative for the rest of the term.

B. PARTICIPATION IN THE PCC

Article 84
Members

Each CITEL Member State may appoint to a PCC the delegation that it deems relevant, whose members are specialists in telecommunications/ICT in accordance with the method set out in Article 4. A Member State may remove or replace the members of that delegation by notifying the Executive Secretary, in writing, of its decision to do so.

Article 85
Associate Members

1. Associate membership on a PCC is open to:
 - a. Any entity, organization or institution, or academic institution, related to the telecommunications/ICT industry that has legal personality (hereinafter “entity”), provided that the entity's associate membership is approved by the corresponding Member State of CITEL. The expression “corresponding Member State of CITEL” means the country where the “entity” was constituted or has its principal office.
 - b. Any entity related with the telecommunications/ICT industry with legal personality in a non-Member State, whose associate membership is approved by a minimum of three Member States.
 - c. An international or regional inter-governmental, or private, academic, or civil society organization related to telecommunications/ICT and has legal personality (hereinafter “the organization”), with the approval of COM/CITEL.
2. Applications from entities wishing to become associate members of a PCC, if any, must be forwarded to the corresponding Member State, together with an indication of the elected contributory unit and the pertinent information of a contact person to whom procedural information may be sent. The corresponding Member State shall be responsible for examining and approving such applications based on such criteria or procedures for sponsoring associate members as it deems appropriate.
3. In the case of an organization, the application procedures for acquiring the status of associate member of a PCC will be made to COM/CITEL.
4. Where appropriate, the corresponding Member State or COM/CITEL will notify the Executive Secretary of its approval of an application received from an entity or organization, indicating the elected contributory unit and the pertinent information of the contact person appointed by the entity or the organization to whom procedural information may be sent.
5. The Executive Secretary will notify the requesting entity or organization of the decision made with respect to its application and the procedures which associate membership entails.
6. The Executive Secretary will notify the Chair of COM/CITEL and the Chair of the respective PCC about the admission of the entity referred to in number 5 of this Article. In the case of the admission of an organization, the notification shall be sent only to the Chairperson of the respective PCC.
7. A list of all entities and organizations granted associate membership in each PCC shall be compiled and maintained by the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary shall provide the Secretary General of the Organization, all Member States of CITEL and the Chairs of the PCCs with a copy of that list, and shall publish it in available electronic media.

8. An entity shall cease to be an associate member of a PCC if at least one Member State withdraws its approval of that entity. An organization shall cease to be an associate member in the event that COM/CITEL withdraws its approval of that entity.

Article 86 Participation of Associate Members

1. Each associate member has the right to participate in any of the meetings of the PCCs to which the associate member is affiliated by sending one or more representatives. To that end, associate members shall provide in writing to the Executive Secretary the names of their representatives before the opening of each PCC meeting.

2. Associate members of a PCC may fully participate in all the activities of that PCC with voice but without vote. They may submit technical documents and receive documents from the Committee they belong to. An associate member of any PCC shall be entitled to participate in the work of any joint working group of the PCC to which that associate member belongs, without being requested the payment of additional fees.

3. In order for an associate member to speak on behalf of and in representation of the corresponding Member State, he shall:

- a. Have been previously accredited as part of that Member State delegation, and
- b. Be presented by his/her delegation, before speaking, indicating that his/her verbal statements are as a representative of that Member State.

Article 87 Associate Membership Fee

1. Associate members shall contribute to the funding of their respective PCC, voluntarily choosing the level of contribution. The minimum contributory level shall be “one” unit for associate members with legal personality in one of the Member States and “one and one half” units for the others. All these contributions may be increased in minimum “one half” unit levels.

2. The monetary value of the unit, stated in U.S.A. dollars, shall be established by the CITEL Assembly, and shall cover membership payment for one calendar year or, as the case may be, for the prorated corresponding part.

3. Associate members shall have until October of each year to notify the Executive Secretary of CITEL of any change in the level of their contributions, which must comply with the provisions of this Article. Any such change shall take effect as of the year immediately following. Associate members that do not indicate any change shall continue to be considered as being at the previously selected contributory level.

4. Funds derived from associate membership fees shall be allocated to the budget of the corresponding PCC and used as directed by the respective PCC Chair to defray expenses of PCC meetings, their groups, and relevant activities of the corresponding PCC.

5. Associate members shall pay their annual contribution in advance. The due date for the payment of the annual membership fee is January 1 of the corresponding year; however, for a new associate member, the due date during the first year of membership is thirty days after that Member receives notice of its acceptance as an associate member. Associate members who pay their membership fees within sixty days after the due date shall be deemed active associate members. Those who do not pay within this time without informing the Executive Secretary on the reasons for such delay shall be deemed passive associate members, and shall have their membership privileges suspended by the Executive Secretary until such time as their accounts are paid up to date. If the Executive Secretary is satisfied with the justification of the delayed payment of fees by a Member, he may extend the deadline for payment up until June 30 of the corresponding year.

6. Any associate member may renounce membership in any PCC by written notification of such intention to the Executive Secretary. Such renunciation will become effective ninety days from the date of notification. In such a case, membership fees will be prorated on a yearly basis. Passive associate member that is more than two years in arrears in the payment of membership fees shall be deemed to have implicitly renounced membership effective immediately.

7. In case of resignation, associate members shall be liable for their fees up until the effective date of renunciation, and likewise, those who are up to date in their fees shall be considered active associate members up until that same effective date.

8. The Executive Secretary shall make all reasonable efforts to collect past due membership fees and shall report on those efforts annually to COM/CITEL. Membership fees past due for more than three years shall be considered uncollectible and shall be treated accordingly on CITEL's financial statements.

9. Fee incomes shall be credited against the outstanding balance of the earliest fiscal year, as is the practice in the OAS.

Article 88 Observers and Guests

Observers

1. Observers in the categories set out in Articles 13, 14, 15, and 16, paragraph 1 may participate as observers to the PCCs on the same terms as prescribed in Regulations for their participation in the meetings of the CITEL Assembly, by appointing their representatives in a written notice addressed to the Executive Secretary, who will inform the Chair of the corresponding PCC.

2. Observers in the categories referred to in Article 16, paragraph 2 may participate as observers of the PCCs, subject to the approval of their request to participate by the Chair of the corresponding PCC. The request to participate shall be presented in writing to the Executive Secretary of CITEL forty-five days in advance of the corresponding meeting.

3. Observers referred to in Article 16, paragraphs 1 and 2 may speak at the PCC meetings only when invited to do so by the corresponding presiding officer, because of a special interest or

expertise in a specific topic of discussion. Similarly, such observers may provide written statements on such topics when expressly authorized or requested to do so by the presiding officer.

Guests

4. An entity involved in telecommunications/ICT or a person with a specific interest in telecommunications/ICT may attend as a guest the meetings of PCCs, its Working Groups, and Ad Hoc Groups under the following conditions:

- a. The person or entity must request the Executive Secretary in writing their interest to participate in a meeting at least forty-five days before the meeting.
- b. The Executive Secretary shall inform the corresponding Chair and the Member States that participate in the group.
- c. If there is no objection and on the instructions of the respective Chair, the Executive Secretary will extend the corresponding invitation.

5. The guests, with the authorization from the Chair, and if there is no objection from a Member State attending the meeting, may receive copy of the documents of the meeting and make verbal or written presentations at the meeting.

C. MEETINGS

Article 89

1. Each PCC shall meet at least once a year at a time and place determined by its respective Chair. The meetings of a PCC shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations corresponding to the CITEL Assembly, to the extent that such provisions are applicable.

2. Papers, studies, decisions, and draft resolutions of a PCC which require the consideration of the CITEL Assembly shall be submitted to COM/CITEL at least four months before a meeting of the CITEL Assembly is held.

3. A PCC may hold private sessions restricting participation solely to Members and associate members. The Chair of a PCC, a Working Group, or an Ad Hoc Group may convene private sessions during a meeting at his discretion or at the request of a Member State. However, on the basis of reciprocity, observer organizations may be invited by the Chair to attend these private sessions, if there is no objection from a Member State.

4. If for any reason a Regular Meeting of a Permanent Consultative Committees cannot be held in the country chosen by the Chair, it shall be held at the seat of the General Secretariat of the Organization, unless one of the Member States, with sufficient advance notice offers to host the meeting, in which case the Chair of COM/CITEL may agree to hold the meeting in that country.

5. The Secretary General of the Organization, or by delegation, the CITEL Executive Secretary, shall transmit the notice of convocation of the meeting and the invitations to the participants as soon as the country offering to host the meeting confirms to the CITEL Secretariat the exact date, city and specific location for the meeting. The country offering to host a meeting shall provide this information to the Executive Secretary, no later than sixty days before the proposed date of the meeting.

Article 90
Decisions

1. In the absence of consensus in the deliberations of the PCCs, draft resolutions shall be adopted in accordance with the Regulations on voting established in Article 97 of these Regulations. In order to approve a resolution, decision or recommendation by vote or consensus, the PCC meeting must have a quorum of one third of the Member States of CITEL.

2. The approval of any PCC resolution will require the affirmative vote of at least one third of all CITEL Member States.

3. In addition, PCCs may adopt resolutions, decisions, or recommendations by correspondence provided there are no negative responses from the CITEL Member States and applying such procedures as may be established by COM/CITEL.

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CHAPTER V THE SECRETARIAT

Article 91

The Secretariat shall be composed of the Executive Secretary, appointed by the Secretary General of the Organization, in consultation with the members of COM/CITEL, and the professional and administrative staff that the Secretary General appoints in accordance with the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States.

Article 92

The Executive Secretary of CITEL

1. The Executive Secretary of CITEL shall be a person highly versed in the subject matter.
2. In addition to the functions established in the CITEL Statute, the Executive Secretary shall have the following duties:
 - a. To prepare the technical documents assigned to him by the organs of CITEL and the working documents for CITEL meetings.
 - b. To serve as Technical Secretary of the meetings of the CITEL Assembly and of COM/CITEL.
 - c. To see that the minutes, decisions, papers, and draft resolutions of all the organs of CITEL are in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the Organization, the mandates of the General Assembly, the Statute of CITEL, and these Regulations.
 - d. To receive official correspondence relating to CITEL, to deal with it appropriately, and to handle communications regarding the work of the Secretariat, informing the Secretary General of the Organization thereof. Copies of such correspondence shall be sent to the Chair of COM/CITEL.
 - e. To carry out the decisions and tasks that the different organs of CITEL may request.
 - f. To cooperate with the Chair of COM/CITEL in the preparation of the draft agenda for each CITEL Assembly Meeting, as well as in the preparation of the agenda for each COM/CITEL meeting.
 - g. To prepare documents, studies, and reports necessary for each CITEL Assembly and COM/CITEL meetings, taking into account the guidelines established in this regard by COM/CITEL.
 - h. Once COM/CITEL has decided upon the date and place for the regular and special meetings of the Assembly, to so inform the Member States immediately in writing.
 - i. To prepare notices of convocation for the meetings of all CITEL organs.

- j. To cooperate with COM/CITEL in the preparation of the annual report of CITEL to be presented through the Secretary General to the Permanent Council of the Organization for its consideration.
- k. To keep CITEL Member States permanently informed of technical activities in the telecommunications/ICT field, in accordance with the instructions received from the Chair of COM/CITEL and taking into account the information received by COM/CITEL.
- l. To provide information to and keep world and regional, governmental and nongovernmental entities specializing in ICT abreast of the resolutions and decisions of the CITEL Assembly on telecommunications/ICT matters, for which purpose a periodic newsletter may be utilized.
- m. To provide a periodic information service, with widespread coverage on the progress of telecommunications/ICT and their development in the American States.
- n. To maintain custody of the files containing the official documentation of all the meetings of the CITEL organs.
- o. To represent the Chair of COM/CITEL at public or private functions and at meetings of international organizations, when the Chair so decides.
- p. After consultation with the Chairmen of the PCCs, to prepare and submit to COM/CITEL an annual preliminary draft budget taking into account the directions given by the previous CITEL Assembly Meeting.
- q. To supervise the staff of the CITEL Secretariat, in order to ensure the most effective use of personnel.
- r. To prepare and make available to the Member States and associate members by electronic means the resolutions, recommendations, decisions, and declarations of the organs of CITEL.
- s. To prepare annually, for submission to and approval by COM/CITEL, a schedule of meetings covering the coming two-year period. In preparing the schedule of meetings, the Secretariat should take into consideration the schedule of pertinent OAS, ITU and Regional Organizations meetings, and should also coordinate beforehand with the chairpersons of the various committees.
- t. Regularly to prepare and distribute to the Chair of COM/CITEL and the Chairs of the PCCs a report on the expenditures paid with CITEL financial resources, including associate membership fees.

CHAPTER VI GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. TRAVEL EXPENSES

Article 93

Travel expenses for staff members of the General Secretariat of the Organization attending any meeting of the CITEL organs, in order to be charged to CITEL's budget, must be expressly provided for and approved in that budget.

B. WORKING METHODS OF CITEL

Article 94

Schedule of Meetings and Agendas

1. Meeting dates should be set well in advance.
 - a. COM/CITEL shall set and distribute a calendar of proposed meetings for all CITEL organs, including specific dates and venues.
 - b. The calendar of proposed meetings should be drawn up to minimize conflict with major activities of the ITU, and as appropriate, with regional meetings of related standards or development organizations.
 - c. To the extent practicable, meetings of CITEL organs provided for in the Statute should be regularized. Additional meetings may be scheduled at the discretion of the Chairmen.
2. Information about the calendar meetings and meeting notices should be published regularly.
3. COM/CITEL shall prepare a draft preliminary agenda for each Regular Meeting of the CITEL Assembly one year in advance.
4. The Chairmen of the PCCs, with the assistance of the Executive Secretary, shall send proposed agendas for the PCC meetings to all participants of the respective committees at least two months prior to the meeting.

Instruments

A. Resolution

- a. Definition. It is a manifestation of the will of an organ, acting within the scope of its jurisdiction, by which it approves measures or actions relating to any of the functions assigned to the corresponding provisions of the Statute of CITEI, Regulations or other resolutions from competent bodies as a result of the review and judgments made on the issue or issues subject of the resolution. Its application can be either transient or permanent.
- (i) The Resolutions of the Assembly of CITEI may refer, as appropriate, to any of the objectives of CITEI indicated in Article 3 or the functions of the Assembly indicated in Article 5 of the Statute of CITEI;
 - (ii) The Resolutions of COM/CITEI may refer, as appropriate, to any of the objectives of CITEI indicated in Article 3 or the functions of the indicated in Article 17 of the Statute of CITEI;
 - (iii) The Resolutions of the PCC focus on measures or actions of internal application concerning one or more aspects of a specific topic, within the scope of the jurisdiction assigned to it by the Assembly of CITEI.
- b. Format. The format of the Resolutions must consist of a descriptive text and an operative text.

The descriptive text may contain one or more “Whereas” sections that mention the documents, resolutions or legal provisions that have been taken into account as background for the resolution, with one or more “Considering” or “Recitals” being mentioned, in which the facts and rules that justify or necessitate the adoption of the operative text of the resolution are discussed.

The operative text must contain one or more paragraphs on decisions to be made. When deemed necessary, a Resolution may also include in its operative text one or more recommendations and/or instructions either for the Executive Secretary or any other party to which it corresponds.

B. Recommendation

- a. Definition It is a manifestation of the will of an organ, acting within the scope of their competence, by which it invites the Administrations of Member States or other deliberative organs of CITEI and the OAS, to accept the opinion and judgment made by the recommending body on different aspects of a specific issue, or to implement it, as appropriate. Its application can be either transient or permanent.
- (i) The recommendations of the Assembly of CITEI may be addressed to the General Assembly of the OAS or any other organ of the OAS, when appropriate, to the authorities of the Member States or any deliberative organ of CITEI;

- (ii) The recommendations of COM/CITEL may be addressed to the Administrations of the Member States, the Assembly of CITEL or to other deliberative organs of CITEL; and where applicable, to the General Assembly of the OAS or any other organ of the OAS, to present CITEL's position.
 - (iii) The recommendations of a PCC may be addressed to its Working Groups or Ad Hoc Groups, to another PCC, to COM/CITEL or to the Assembly of CITEL, through COM/CITEL.
- b. Format. The format of the Recommendations must consist of a descriptive text and an operative text.

The descriptive text must have the same characteristics indicated for the descriptive text of the resolutions.

The operative text must contain one or more recommendations. In addition, where applicable, it may contain one or more instructions for the Executive Secretary or any other party to which it corresponds.

C. Decision

- a. Definition. It is a manifestation of the will of a body by which it approves, within the scope of its competence, the execution of a specific purely administrative activity. This category includes tasks such as requests for information, the submission of forms to national Administrations, or other similar activities.
- b. Format. Decisions do not require descriptive text. In the case of decisions by the PCC, they will be found in the text of the minutes of the meetings; they will also be published in a table in the Final Report of each meeting, numbered consecutively. The Decisions of the Assembly of CITEL and the Permanent Consultative Committee of CITEL will be maintained in the current format.

D. Inter-American Proposals

Preliminary Proposal (PP):

Definition: That which is presented for debate for the purpose of having it acquire the nature of a Draft Inter-American Proposal and then Inter-American Proposal.

Draft Inter-American Proposal (DIAP):

Definition: That Proposal which, after being presented for consideration and debate by the Member States, has the support of more than 1 (one) Administration.

Inter-American Proposal (IAP):

Definition: This is a Preliminary Proposal or Draft Inter-American Proposal about which the Office of Rapporteur for the Preparation of the WTSA/WCIT has finalized its consideration and debate, and has been supported by at least 6 (six) Administrations, and which is not opposed by more than 50% (fifty per cent) of the total number of backings obtained.

Article 95

Conduct of Meetings and Administrative Support

1. The Secretariat shall provide administrative support to prepare for, conduct, and follow up on all the meetings of the CITEL Assembly, COM/CITEL and each of the PCCs in accordance with the budget, and taking into account the level of support provided by the host country to the meetings.
2. The Chair's reports and the technical contributions or proposals to be considered at each PCC Plenary meeting should be made available to all members as they are received, by the most suitable means, prior to the meeting. Additional technical contributions may be submitted up to the date of the meeting at the discretion of the Chair.
3. The Chair may limit the time for the presentation and discussion of documents, taking into account whether they are information documents or proposals. Information documents shall not be submitted for discussion nor translated, but rather comments will be requested thereon which will also be subject to a time limit. The Chair will have to respect at all times the right to speak of the Member States and the associate members.
4. All documents for meetings of the CITEL Assembly and COM/CITEL are to be translated and distributed by the Secretariat to members in final reproducible form, if possible in English and Spanish, as soon as they are available.
5. Members are encouraged to use modern means of communication to conduct business to the extent possible. This should be the normal way of operation for the working groups, and ad hoc groups to work to minimize the number of meetings.
6. Seminars, and meetings of ad hoc groups and working groups of each PCC should be scheduled, as much as possible, in conjunction with a relevant PCC Plenary meeting.
7. Member States or associate members who host seminars or meetings of, ad hoc groups or working groups that meet independently of a regular PCC meeting shall bear the costs of such meetings if there are not resources approved for that purpose in the CITEL program-budget.

Article 96

Working Procedures Governing the Activities of the PCCs

1. The process that determines areas of priority interest among the participants involves holding seminars on topics of interests, and forming ad hoc groups to explore areas that may be subject of permanent working groups. This process should be used at the PCC level.

2. Seminars and discussions on topics of interest should be held in conjunction with PCC meetings, with the meetings of working groups or ad hoc groups, or whenever necessary as agreed with the PCC.
3. For a Working Group to be created, at least six Member States should undertake to actively participate in its work. The establishment of the Working Group shall be approved by a PCC resolution indicating its scope of interest and mandate.
4. Ad hoc groups shall work up to two consecutive years, their term may be exceptionally extended by the corresponding Committee or by the Assembly when applicable, for a limited period to allow for the completion of tasks. Eventually, the PCC may transform the ad hoc group into a Working Group, pursuant to the procedure described in paragraph 3 above.
5. Every working group, rapporteurship, and ad hoc group shall have a chair and one or more vice chairs. The chair and vice-chair may be held by either a Member State or an associate member. In the selection of a chair or vice-chair, equitable geographic distribution should be taken into account in as far as possible.
6. All PCC members may attend the meetings of the working groups, rapporteurships, and the ad hoc groups. However, only those that specifically register as members of the working group or ad hoc group may be assured of getting working documents and would be expected to participate actively in the work of the group. The discussions on the working documents and the reports arising there-from shall take place within the meetings held by the Group and shall at all times observe the provisions of the mandate.
7. The Chairpersons of the working groups and ad hoc groups, as well as the rapporteurs must provide reports in writing and/or verbally regarding the progress made at each PCC meeting. The final report presented by any Group shall reflect its results and must be distributed by the Executive Secretariat to the PCC members. The final report cannot be amended by the PCC. Nevertheless, any proposal for action that might arise as a result of the report must be dealt with by the PCC.
8. Any actions proposed to the PCC in the form of resolutions, recommendations, or decisions from a working group, or ad hoc group must be clearly identified and supported in the Group report. The report shall state whether the action being proposed has received approval from all the participating members of the Group.
9. With a view to ensuring their due consideration by the Member States, all draft resolutions, recommendations, or decisions presented to the PCC Plenary meeting by a working group, or ad hoc group shall be distributed, in the working languages of CITEL, to the Member States present at the PCC meeting before the start of the meeting, where they shall be discussed or submitted to a vote.
10. The plenary of the PCC shall adopt the resolutions or recommendations of the Working Groups by consensus and with the presence of at least one-third of its members; those measures can be adopted also by electronic means provided that there are not negative answers.

11. PCCs are allowed to change and adapt their work methods to most efficiently meet the needs of their members, provided they do not contravene the provisions of the CITES Statute and Regulations.

12. COM/CITES shall routinely review the work programs of PCCs and provide advice to the PCC chairmen regarding areas where there is overlap or redundancy and where more coordination among the PCCs is required. In this regard, the chairmen of the PCCs should routinely coordinate to avoid duplication and to identify areas where formal cooperation between or among PCCs would be useful. Likewise, efforts should be made to ensure that new working groups or ad hoc groups do not duplicate the work that is being performed by already existing groups. This may be achieved by reviewing the mandates of the existing groups and taking such actions as may be necessary to effectively coordinate the work of the corresponding working groups, rapporteurships, ad hoc groups or PCCs.

13. PCCs shall regularly evaluate the need to retain their working groups, rapporteurships and ad hoc groups depending on their activities and on the effectiveness of their work, in particular those having failed to submit their report at two consecutive meetings of the PCC. This evaluation may result in a draft resolution whereby:

- a. The group is required to continue its tasks.
- b. The group's work is terminated.
- c. The group's scope of activities, mandate or duration is changed.
- d. A new chair and/or vice-chair are/is appointed for the group.
- e. Any other action is taken to contribute to achieving the goals sought.

14. Work shall be performed, insofar as possible, with the use of electronic documents transmission systems.

15. Both the CITES Assembly and COM/CITES may apply the above procedures or any part thereof in establishing their Working Groups or Ad Hoc Groups.

C. VOTING RULES

Article 97

1. Where the Statute or these Regulations requires that a decision be taken and a consensus is not reached, there shall be a vote by secret ballot. The secret ballot rule may be suspended temporarily on a case by case basis, provided that, before the secret vote is begun, a motion is made to suspend the rule, and an absolute majority of the participating Member States approves that motion by a show of hands.

2. The Chair may permit a delegate to explain his vote, either before or after the voting, and he may limit the time for such an explanation.

D. RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Article 98

1. With a view to maximizing cooperation and coordination in its activities and work, CITELE shall collaborate, through such agreements as it deems pertinent, with technical, governmental, nongovernmental and intergovernmental agencies engaged in activities similar to those contemplated in the objectives and functions of CITELE, set out in Article 3 of the Statute.

2. When the activities of CITELE are germane to the technical competence of an inter-American specialized organization, the subsidiary organs, agencies, and other entities of the inter-American System, CITELE shall request their cooperation in carrying out those activities.

E. OTHER PROVISIONS

Article 99

Entry into Force

These Regulations shall enter into force on the date of their approval by the CITELE Assembly and shall govern all meetings of all CITELE organs.

Article 100

Amendments to the Regulations

1. Proposals to amend these Regulations shall be submitted to the CITELE Assembly for adoption. Adoption of amendments shall be by an absolute majority of the participating Member States.

2. When COM/CITELE determines that an amendment is urgent, it may decide to apply that amendment provisionally pending final decision by the CITELE Assembly at its next Regular or Special meeting, in accordance with Article 17 (g) of the Statute.

3. Amendments to these Regulations, once adopted by the CITELE Assembly, shall be presented to the General Assembly of the Organization at its next regular session for its information.

Article 101

Suspension of Provisions from Chapter II

The provisions of Chapter II of these Regulations shall apply to all meetings of the CITELE Assembly. However, in exceptional circumstances, the Assembly may decide by a two-thirds majority vote of the participating Member States to suspend temporarily any provision of Chapter II of these Regulations for the more efficient functioning of the Assembly. This suspension shall not contravene any provision of the Statute.

Article 102
Unregulated Matters

Situations and matters not provided for in these Regulations shall be decided by COM/CITEL by an absolute majority vote of the Member States participating in the CITEL Assembly or COM/CITEL members if the Assembly is not in session. Should the Assembly or COM/CITEL not be in session, they shall be dealt with provisionally by the Chair, after consulting with the other members of COM/CITEL, until COM/CITEL ratifies this decision at its next meeting. COM/CITEL shall report all decisions adopted under this Article, to the next Regular Meeting of the CITEL Assembly. No decision adopted under this Article can contradict the provisions of the CITEL Statute.

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ANNEX
NAMES OF THE PERMANENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES

In reference to Article 80 of these Regulations, CITEI has the following Permanent Consultative Committees:

Permanent Consultative Committee I (PCC.I): Telecommunications/Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

Permanent Consultative Committee II (PCC.II): Radiocommunications

AG/RES. 2866 (XLIV-O/14)

ADVANCING HEMISPHERIC SECURITY: A MULTIDIMENSIONAL APPROACH^{1/}

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the “Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly 2013-2014” (AG/doc.5470/14 add. 1), in particular the section on the activities of the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH);

REAFFIRMING the norms and principles of international law contained in the Charter of the Organization of American States and the Charter of the United Nations;

RECALLING the resolutions assigned to the CSH as detailed in the “List of Resolutions Assigned to the Committee on Hemispheric Security (1995-2013) and Other Resolutions Related to Security Issues (1991-1994)” (CP/CSH/INF.278/11 rev. 3);

REAFFIRMING that the programs, activities, and tasks set out in the resolutions on hemispheric security help further one of the essential purposes of the Organization enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of American States, to strengthen peace and security in the Hemisphere, in accordance with the legal system of each country, with full respect for international law and underscoring that cooperation among member states is fundamental for the attainment of that goal;

REAFFIRMING ALSO the provisions of the Declaration on Security in the Americas, adopted in Mexico City in October 2003, which provides that the “new concept of security in the Hemisphere is multidimensional in scope, includes traditional and new threats, concerns, and other challenges to the security of the states of the Hemisphere, incorporates the priorities of each state, contributes to the consolidation of peace, integral development, and social justice, and is based on democratic values, respect for and promotion and defense of human rights, solidarity, cooperation, and respect for national sovereignty”;

EXPRESSING ITS SATISFACTION at the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Declaration on Security in the Americas, through a seminar held during the special meeting of the Permanent Council on October 28, 2013, which resulted in an interdisciplinary exercise that examined the evolution of the concept of multidimensional security, in particular the issue of security and social development;

RECOGNIZING the importance of the dialogue among participants that took place during the seminar and during the Permanent Council’s three preparatory meetings on the 10th anniversary of the Declaration on Security in the Americas, for the continued implementation of said Declaration;

1^o Bolivia, Nicaragua, and Venezuela call into question the continued validity of the organs of the inter-American system that are concerned with defense issues given their origins, nature, scope,

REAFFIRMING the importance of adopting policies, programs, and actions to prevent and address violence, crime, and insecurity;

EMPHASIZING that the consolidation of the nuclear-weapon-free zone set forth in the Treaty of Tlatelolco constitutes a firm demonstration of the steadfast commitment of Latin America and the Caribbean to the cause of complete and verifiable nuclear disarmament and the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, in keeping with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations;

REITERATING that the process of collecting data and information should be undertaken in accordance with domestic law and international conventions, and with full respect for human rights, and that the exchange of information between national public security institutions is key to strengthening international cooperation aimed at preventing, confronting, and investigating criminal activities that pose a threat to public security;^{2/}

DEEPLY CONCERNED at the negative impact that surveillance and/or interception of communications, including extraterritorial surveillance and/or interception of communications, as well as the collection of personal data, in particular, when carried out on a mass scale, may have on the exercise and enjoyment of human rights;^{3/}

RECALLING that the Declaration of Santiago (1995), the Declaration of San Salvador (1998), the Consensus of Miami, and resolution AG/RES. 2447 (XXXIX-O/09), “Confidence- and Security-Building in the Americas,” among other resolutions on confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), are foundational pillars of the confidence- and security-building system in the Hemisphere and constitute a direct forerunner of those adopted subsequently at the regional and subregional levels;

UNDERSCORING that peace is in itself a value and a principle and is based on democracy, justice, respect for human rights, solidarity, security, and respect for international law;

REAFFIRMING that in the Declaration on Security in the Americas, adopted at the Special Conference on Security in October 2003, the member states considered “that zones of peace and cooperation contribute to peace, security, and cooperation in the Hemisphere” and declared their support for “the creation of zones of peace at the bilateral or subregional level by member states”;

UNDERSCORING the importance of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions (CITAAC), and the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism;

HAVING SEEN the annual reports of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) (CP/doc.4987/14), the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) (CP/doc.4980/14), and the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) (CP/doc.4971/14);

2. The United States considers that while some issues at the OAS are cross-cutting, other issues are clearly the responsibilities of specific committees that have competence ...

3. *Ibid.*

HAVING FULFILLED the mandate to consider relations between the Organization of American States (OAS) and the hemispheric defense meetings; the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB); and measures to promote cooperation, through the discussions of the CSH;

EXPRESSING ITS SATISFACTION with the holding of the Fourth Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA-IV), in Medellín, Colombia on November 21 and 22, 2013; the fourteenth regular session of CICTE, on February 20-21, 2014; the Meeting of National Authorities on Transnational Organized Crime, on April 24 and 25, 2014; the fifty-fifth regular session of CICAD, from April 29 to May 1, 2014; and the fifteenth regular meeting of the Consultative Committee of CIFTA, on May 6, 2014;

UNDERSCORING the holding of the meeting of the Subsidiary Technical Working Group on Police Management, in Mexico City on October 8 and 9, 2013; the twelfth meeting of National Points of Contact to CICTE, on February 20, 2014; and the seventh meeting of the OAS Group of Experts to Prepare Model Legislation in the Areas to Which the CIFTA Refers, on May 5, 2014; and

BEARING IN MIND the results of the above-mentioned conferences and meetings,

RESOLVES:

I. ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEMISPHERIC SECURITY
AND MEMBER STATES

1. To reaffirm to the Permanent Council and to the General Secretariat the applicable mandates contained in past resolutions of the General Assembly on hemispheric security and mentioned in the preambular part of this resolution; and to urge member states to continue contributing to the attainment of the objectives established in said resolutions through the development and execution of activities, the submission of reports, the exchange of information, the adoption of measures and policies, and cooperation, support, and mutual assistance; and to instruct the General Secretariat to provide necessary support to those ends.

2. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue, through the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH) and pursuant to the mandates in this resolution, participating in, holding consultations with, and sharing experiences and information with other regional and international forums.

3. To recognize the central role of the CSH in security and defense matters in the framework of the Organization of American States (OAS), and to instruct the Permanent Council to continue, through the CSH, to promote and coordinate cooperation among the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization.

Meetings of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA)

4. To endorse the Recommendations of Medellín for Strengthening International Cooperation in the Area of Public Security (MISPA IV/doc.4/13 rev. 1) that emerged from the Fourth Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas, held in Medellín, Colombia, on November 21 and 22, 2013, and to encourage member states to effectively apply and continue

implementing the Commitment to Public Security in the Americas, the Consensus of Santo Domingo on Public Security, and the Port of Spain Recommendations for Police Management.

5. To convene the first meeting of the Subsidiary Technical Working Group on International Cooperation, to be held in Colombia in the second half of 2014, in accordance with follow-up paragraph 5 on the Recommendations of Medellín for Strengthening International Cooperation in the Area of Public Security.

6. To convene the second meeting of the Subsidiary Technical Working Group on Police Management, to be held in Peru in the first half of 2015 in accordance with follow-up paragraph 6 of the Recommendations of Medellín for Strengthening International Cooperation in the Area of Public Security.

7. To request the General Secretariat to provide support to member states in implementing the Recommendations of Medellín for Strengthening International Cooperation in the Area of Public Security and, based on the pillars of the MISPA process, to create an online best practices database based on inputs voluntarily provided by the member states, including, *inter alia*, their replies to the first questionnaire on “National Practices and Experiences in Public Security in the Americas”; to develop a catalogue of training courses and technical assistance offered by member states and regional and international organizations, as well as nongovernmental organizations, academic institutions, civil society, and other social actors, so as to foster mutual technical assistance and capacity building among the countries of the region; and to present said database and catalogue to the member states for consideration at the Fifth Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the (MISPA V).

8. To accept with thanks the offer of the Government of Peru to host MISPA V and to convene it in the second half of 2015. To that end, to instruct the Permanent Council to establish, through the CSH, a working group chaired by Peru to coordinate all the preparations for MISPA V.

9. To thank the Government of Peru also for its offer to host the last preparatory meeting for MISPA V; and to request the Chair of MISPA V to submit to the Permanent Council, through the CSH, reports on progress made in the preparatory meetings for MISPA V.

10. Bearing in mind the decision of MISPA IV concerning the “Instruction to the Secretary General of the Organization of American States regarding Cooperation with the American Police Community (AMERIPOL),” to request the Secretariat to report on the matter and to include additional aspects to be borne in mind, so that the member states can evaluate, within the framework of the CSH, possible options for an OAS technical cooperation mechanism or program on police matters.

Support for implementation at the hemispheric level of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)

11. To request the Permanent Council, through the CSH, to continue to assist member states with implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) by holding a meeting, *inter alia*, to disseminate lessons learned, share experiences, and identify specific areas and projects for which assistance is needed, while attempting to establish priorities from a hemispheric

perspective; and to foster a more extensive exchange of information with other international, regional, and subregional organizations, regarding implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including the United Nations Security Council 1540 Committee and, where appropriate, regional coordinators for 1540 implementation within the Hemisphere, thereby contributing to efforts being undertaken in the United Nations framework.

Future of the mission and functions of the instruments and components of the inter-American defense system

12. To consider fulfilled the mandate in operative paragraph 11 of resolution AG/RES. 2809 (XLIH-O/13) concerning relations between the OAS and the hemispheric defense meetings, the Inter-American Defense Board, and measures to promote cooperation; and to take note of the report of the Chair of the Informal Working Group contained in document CP/CSH/INF.389/14 rev. 2.

Confidence- and security-building in the Americas^{4/}

13. To reaffirm the right to privacy, whereby no one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home, work, or correspondence, and the right to protection against such interference under the law, as set forth in Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 11.2 of the American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San José), Article 5 of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, and Article 3 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter.^{5/}

14. To consolidate security and cooperation among member states through the full implementation of confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) in keeping with the provisions of the Declaration of Santiago on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, the Declaration of San Salvador on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, the Consensus of Miami, the Declaration on Security in the Americas, and General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2447 (XXXIX-O/09), "Confidence- and Security-Building in the Americas," among other resolutions on CSBMs.

15. To urge all member states to furnish the General Secretariat, no later than July 15, with information on the application of CSBMs, utilizing the Consolidated List of Confidence- and Security-Building Measures for Reporting According to OAS Resolutions (CP/CSH-1043/08 rev. 1) and the Format for Reporting on the Application of Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSH/FORO-IV/doc.7/10).

16. To request the OAS General Secretariat to complete the implementation of the electronic template for the submission of online annual reports on CSBMs and to provide funding for this endeavor.

17. To set February 12, 2015, at the headquarters of the OAS General Secretariat as the date and place of the Sixth Meeting of the Forum on Confidence and Security Building Measures in

4. The Government of Nicaragua considers that given the crosscutting nature of security in its different dimensions, an integral approach is required that permits the implementation of public policies ...

5. Cf., footnote 2.

order, as set forth in AG/RES. 2809 (XLIII-O/13), to review and evaluate existing CSBMs and to discuss, consider, and propose additional measures.

18. To analyze, at the aforesaid forum, the relevance of discussing new CSBMs, such as those identified in the Consensus of Miami: Declaration by the Experts on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures: Recommendations to the Summit-Mandated Special Conference on Security, and in the Catalogue of CSBMs, as well as those that respect international law, in particular human rights, related to adopting and adapting domestic legislation in processes for obtaining data and information, in order to prevent, address, and investigate criminal activities that threaten security, in light of the realities of the 21st century.

Declaration of San Salvador on Citizen Security in the Americas

19. To urge member states and the General Secretariat to continue implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action to Follow up on the Declaration of San Salvador on Citizen Security in the Americas 2013-2015.

Support for the Central American Security Strategy

20. To invite member states and instruct the General Secretariat to continue collaborating with the Central American Integration System (SICA) on implementation of the Central American Security Strategy.

Preventing violence and crime

21. To instruct the General Secretariat, through its Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, to establish and coordinate, in consultation with the member states, an inter-American network for the prevention of violence and crime (network) to contribute to the efforts and capabilities of the member states, particularly in areas relating to participation by the population within the framework of citizen security and community organization. The network, which is to comprise representatives of member states, governmental, nongovernmental, international, and regional organizations, will be technical in nature and will consider, *inter alia*, mechanisms, programs, practices for fostering hemispheric coordination and cooperation in the area of violence and crime prevention. The aforementioned network will be composed with the agreement of the member states. The findings of its deliberations will be presented at the forty-fifth regular session of the OAS General Assembly.

22. To instruct the General Secretariat to establish a specific fund and its rules of procedure to support activities designed to prevent violence and crime, including the inter-American network for the prevention of violence and crime. The fund will be open to voluntary contributions by member states, permanent observer states, and the international community. The Secretariat will report on the use and results of those funds based on the activities carried out through the Network.

23. To include the subject of violence and crime prevention in the schedule of activities of the CSH for 2014–2015.

The Americas as an antipersonnel land mine-free zone^{6/}

24. To renew its support for the efforts of affected member states to rid their territories of antipersonnel land mines, destroy their stockpiles, and convert the Americas into the world's first antipersonnel land mine-free zone.

25. To acknowledge the support demonstrated by 33 member states of the Hemisphere through their ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention); to encourage governments to continue working or providing support in the area of mine action in accordance with the Ottawa Convention, their mine action plans, and available resources; and to urge states that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Ottawa Convention as soon as possible to ensure its full and effective implementation in the Americas and contribute to its universalization.

26. To urge those States Parties that requested extensions under Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention to make every effort necessary to comply with their obligations within the periods established.

27. To congratulate the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on having been declared an anti-personnel mine-free territory at the thirteenth meeting of the States Parties to the Ottawa Convention, held in Geneva in December 2013, was declared thereby fulfilling the commitment it made one year ahead of the established deadline.

28. To firmly condemn, in accordance with the principles and norms of international humanitarian law, the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of antipersonnel mines and improvised explosive devices by non-state actors, especially illegal armed groups in Colombia and Peru, which acts put at grave risk the population of the affected countries; and to strongly urge non-state actors to observe the international norm established by the Ottawa Convention to facilitate progress in the Americas toward a mine-free world.

29. To note its gratitude for the cooperation that the Program for Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines (AICMA) provides to member states in the demining process and in the delivery of medical care to victims. Similarly, to note its gratitude for the support given by the Assistance Mission for Mine Clearance in South America (MARMINAS) through its participation with observers and provision of training, and to recognize the high level of cooperation between Ecuador and Peru, which has enabled great progress in clearing the Amazonian jungle area of antipersonnel mines.

30. To recognize that the bilateral humanitarian demining model and the management models established by Ecuador and Peru are an example of effective and efficient South-South cooperation with the potential to be replicated in other member states as the upshot of the appropriate implementation of an important confidence-building initiative that includes joint training efforts; exchange of information, expertise and experience acquired in the performance of their obligations under the Ottawa Convention; and the creation of the Peru-Ecuador Binational Humanitarian Demining Unit.

6. The United States will continue to support OAS efforts to eliminate the humanitarian threat of all remaining landmines and declare countries "mine-impact-free." Additionally, ...

31. To underline that Colombia, which ranks second in the world in terms of the number of new victims of the use of these devices by armed agents operating outside the law, hosted the “Global Conference on Assisting Landmine and other Explosive Remnants of War Survivors in the Context of Disability Rights and other Domains: Bridges between Worlds,” which took place in Medellin, Colombia, on April 3 and 4, 2014, was attended by a large number of participants from the region, and managed to advance awareness of victim assistance beyond the human rights approach embodied in the Ottawa Convention.

32. To note that the United Nations General Assembly, by resolution 60/97, “Assistance in mine action,” has declared April 4 of every year to be International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action; and to invite states to mark the day in solidarity of the member states concerned, in particular of their populations.

33. To renew its call for all states and other engaged parties to work together to promote, support, and advance the care, rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of mine victims; on mine-risk education programs; and on the removal and destruction of anti-personnel mines deployed or stockpiled throughout the world.

34. To urge all OAS member states that are parties to the Ottawa Convention to provide the OAS Secretary General with complete and timely information, as required under Article 7 of the Convention in order to promote transparency and compliance with the Convention.

35. To urge the States Parties to the Ottawa Convention, interested states, the United Nations, other competent international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and competent nongovernmental organizations to attend the Third Review Conference, to be held in Maputo, Mozambique, from June 23 to 27, 2014, in order to make a substantive contribution to the deliberations and to discuss the progress achieved in the implementation of the Cartagena Declaration, “A Shared Commitment to a Mine-Free World and the Cartagena Action Plan 2010–2014: Ending the Suffering Caused by Antipersonnel Mines,” as well as to renew their commitment to the Ottawa Convention.

Execution of the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime and strengthening of hemispheric cooperation

36. To request the Permanent Council to continue, through the CSH, its consideration of the issue of transnational organized crime and to determine the best way to advance analysis for addressing the issue.

37. To include the issue of transnational organized crime in the Schedule of Activities of the CSH for 2014-2015.

38. To request the General Secretariat, in particular the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS) and the Department of Legal Cooperation, to conduct a study on the efforts it makes and the structure it is using to deal with issues connected with combating transnational organized crime, identifying strengths and potential areas for improvement, as well as challenges and threats, in order to avoid the duplication of tasks and more effectively support member states and the

Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime. The study shall be presented to the CSH by the beginning of the first quarter of 2015.

39. To convene a joint meeting of the CSH and the CAJP (spell out) in the first quarter 2015 to address the issue of combating transnational organized crime, with a view to examining internally the efforts of each committee and identifying synergies between them.

40. To request the CSH—taking into account the study to be presented by the General Secretariat, the outcome of the joint meeting with the CAJP, and the results of the Meeting of National Authorities on Transnational Organized Crime, held on April 24 and 25, 2014, as contained in the report of the Secretariat (RANDOT/doc.3/14)—to evaluate existing structures and coordination mechanisms for addressing the issue efficiently and effectively, promoting greater cooperation, and implementing the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime.

41. To instruct the General Secretariat to promote, in the framework of the CSH, a virtual meeting or teleconference on transnational organized crime among members of the OAS Directory of National Points of Contact, for the purposes of implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime.

42. To urge member states to continue to use the OAS Hemispheric Network for Legal Cooperation on Criminal Matters to communicate, coordinate, and exchange information.

43. To take note of the dialogue that took place at the Meeting of National Authorities on Transnational Organized Crime, which addressed, *inter alia*, matters relating to indices of violence and their links with other issues; the comprehensive nature of the problem; cooperation and coordination mechanisms between states, and financial and technological resources for training security forces.

44. To invite member states, permanent observers, and international organizations to make voluntary contributions to the specific fund to implement the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime.

Hemispheric efforts to combat trafficking in persons

45. To thank the Government of Brazil for its offer to host the Fourth Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons and to convene the aforementioned meeting in Brasilia, in the second half of 2014. To that end, to establish a working group to coordinate preparations for the Meeting of National Authorities under the leadership of Brazil, with support from the General Secretariat.

46. To request the Permanent Council, through the CSH, to review and update, where it considers relevant, the 2010-2015 Work Plan against Trafficking in Persons in the Western Hemisphere, for consideration and approval by the national authorities at their fourth meeting.

47. To welcome the “International Seminar on Strategic Coordination between Governments and Civil Society for the Integral Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Persons” held

in Lima, Peru, on September 11 and 12, 2013, and to highlight the proposals put forward, *inter alia*, to consider drafting an inter-American declaration against trafficking in persons.

Follow-up to the Special Conference on Security

48. To reaffirm its commitment to the Declaration on Security in the Americas, in particular to the multidimensional approach to security, recognizing the important contribution it has made to the hemispheric agenda as well as the need to continue its implementation, considering the areas identified at the seminar commemorating the 10th anniversary, which addressed the relationship between security and social development, in order to strengthen hemispheric cooperation, help reduce poverty, promote social inclusion, and encourage a preventive approach to counter threats to regional development.

49. To request the Permanent Council to consider, among other things, the areas identified in the commemorative dialogue and included in the report submitted by Mexico (CP/INF.6816/13) and to systematically continue with the dialogue on the Declaration on Security in the Americas on the agenda of the CSH.

Special security concerns of the small island states of the Caribbean

50. To express its pleasure with the satisfactory outcome of the meeting on the special security concerns of the small island states of the Caribbean, held with the theme “The Link between Security and Development in the Caribbean” in the CSH, at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C., on March 27, 2014.

51. To note that the Inter-American Defense Board met with representatives of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Security Working Group in keeping with the request made by the small island states of the Caribbean to conduct a study on the possible components of a cyber-defense strategy for those states and to present them with options for a cyber-defense system in keeping with the IADB Statutes.

52. To encourage the General Secretariat of the OAS, through the SMS, to continue collaborating with the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) on security-related issues.

53. To instruct the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to continue advancing, within their respective areas of competence, those issues that have an impact on the security, sustainable integral development, and stability of the small island states of the Caribbean. In that regard, to continue convening the annual meeting on the special security concerns of the small island states of the Caribbean, re-emphasizing that their peculiar characteristics of small, fragile economies and scarce resources render these states particularly vulnerable and susceptible to the effects of the myriad forms of transnational organized crime and other insecurities.

Consolidation of the regime established in the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)

54. To call upon those states of the region that have not yet done so to sign or ratify the amendments to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), adopted by the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) in resolutions 267 (E-V), 268 (XII), and 290 (E-VII).

55. To note its pleasure that Antigua and Barbuda; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Lucia; and Trinidad and Tobago have deposited their respective instruments of ratification of the amendments to the Treaty of Tlatelolco referred to in the previous paragraph.

56. To recognize the Treaty of Tlatelolco, on the 47th anniversary of its entry into force, as demonstrating that the absence of nuclear weapons in the region strengthens security and confidence among the states of the Hemisphere and sets a clear example for other states that possess such weapons.

57. To also welcome the revitalization, strengthening, and constructive dynamics of OPANAL over the last two years, which have enabled it to forge clear goals and a renewed and increased presence and participation in international forums concerned with the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agenda.

58. To encourage those states that have ratified the relevant protocols to the Treaty of Tlatelolco to review any reservations they have made thereon, in compliance with Action 9 of the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

59. To reiterate its interest in convening, as soon as possible, in consultation with the states of the region, a conference on the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among all the states of the region, and with the full support and engagement of the nuclear-weapon states, as a key step in attaining the elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

Disarmament and nonproliferation in the Hemisphere

60. To foster agreement and greater confidence among states in the region, promote, as a priority objective, nuclear disarmament and nuclear nonproliferation, and contribute to complete and general disarmament toward propitiating greater trust among member states.

61. To reiterate member states' commitment to arms control, disarmament, and nonproliferation of all weapons of mass destruction and to the NPT, the Convention on the Prohibition on the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention), the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (Biological Weapons Convention), and the 1925 Geneva Protocol to the 1907 Hague Convention.

62. To reiterate our resolve to achieve the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons and to call on the States Parties to the NPT to fully implement the obligations and commitments contained in the Treaty, particularly those relating to Articles I, II, IV, and VI, as well as the commitments adopted in the final documents of the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences of the Parties to the NPT, which include specific measures to achieve nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament and to promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

63. To take note of the work of the open-ended working group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons, established pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/56, “Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations,” and chaired in 2013 by Costa Rica.^{7/}

64. To recall that the 2010 NPT Review Conference expressed its deep concern for the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and reaffirmed the need for states to comply at all times with the relevant international law, including international humanitarian law.

65. To take note of the discussions conducted at the First and Second Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, held in Oslo, Norway (March 2013) and Nayarit, Mexico (February 2014), respectively, and to invite all member states to participate in the Third Conference on this subject to be held in Vienna, Austria, on December 8 and 9, 2014.

66. To urge states to consider signing or ratifying the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) as soon as possible, particularly the states listed in Annex 2 to the Treaty, so that it may enter into force as soon as possible. In this regard, to congratulate Indonesia for depositing its instrument of ratification in February 2012.

67. To call on all states to comply fully with the Chemical Weapons Convention and to instruct the General Secretariat to explore the possibility of sharing experiences with the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in the area of legislative implementation of international instruments; to collaborate, within its possibilities and when so requested, in any subregional cooperation programs the OPCW may establish in the Hemisphere; and to report to the CSH on its efforts.

68. To call on all states to comply fully with the Biological Weapons Convention and to instruct the OAS General Secretariat to explore the possibility of sharing experiences with the Convention Implementation Support Unit and, as appropriate, with the Pan American Health Organization, in accordance with its mandate, in the area of the legislative implementation of international instruments and other areas complementary to said Convention, such as epidemiological monitoring and relevant scientific information, and to report to the CSH on its efforts.

7. The United States did not support establishment of the Open-ended Working Group, and did not participate in its meetings. Such non-consensus efforts will not advance the cause of ...

Illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons in all their aspects

69. To include the subject of illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons in all their aspects in the Schedule of Activities of the CSH for 2014-2015.

70. To take into account that further provisions on illicit trafficking in firearms are contained in Section II of this resolution, "Legal Instruments," under the heading "Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA)."

Protecting Critical Infrastructure in the Event of Disasters

71. To include the topic of protection and strengthening of critical infrastructure in the event of disasters in the Schedule of Activities of the CSH for 2014-2015.

II. LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

72. To urge member states that have not already done so to give prompt consideration to ratifying or acceding to, as the case may be, the Inter-American Convention Against the illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA) and the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions (CITAAC).

73. To request the Secretary General to present to the Permanent Council prior to the forty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly a report on the status of signatures and ratifications of, and accessions to, the CIFTA and the CITAAC.

74. To invite member states to consider signing and/or ratifying the Arms Trade Treaty.^{8/}

Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA)

75. To continue implementing the Course of Action 2012-2016 for the Operation and Implementation of the CIFTA, adopted by the Third Conference of the States Party to the CIFTA, held at OAS headquarters on May 14 and 15, 2012.

76. To adopt the draft Model Legislation on Security Measures to Eliminate Loss or Diversion of Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials and the draft Model Legislation on Recordkeeping, Confidentiality, and Exchange of Information related to the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials, both prepared by the OAS Group of Experts to Prepare Model Legislation in the Areas to which the CIFTA Refers and adopted by the CIFTA Consultative Committee at its fifteenth meeting on May 6, 2014. To congratulate the OAS Group of Experts to Prepare Model Legislation in the Areas to which the CIFTA Refers.

8. The Governments of Nicaragua and Bolivia are committed to preventing, combating and eradicating illicit trafficking in firearms. By virtue of their commitment to peace and citizen security, ...

77. To encourage member states, the Pro Tempore Secretariat, and the Technical Secretariat of the CIFTA to make use of the new information and communication technologies available within the General Secretariat to convene meetings of the OAS Group of Experts to Prepare Model Legislation in the Areas to Which the CIFTA Refers in order to review or update, as requested by the CIFTA Consultative Committee, model legislation already developed under the Convention.

78. To request the General Secretariat to strengthen its ability to provide technical legislative assistance on topics related to the CIFTA, particularly through the SMS and the Secretariat for Legal Affairs.

79. To convene the sixteenth regular meeting of the CIFTA Consultative Committee, in compliance with Article XXI of the Convention, as a one-day event at OAS headquarters during the first half of 2015, in order to consider, chiefly, the topic of legislative measures, as agreed on in the Course of Action, and to ask the Technical Secretariat of the CIFTA to support its preparation and follow-up.

80. To take note with satisfaction of the proposal to consider the possibility of establishing the Inter-American Network of Oversight Agencies for Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials, and to support its consideration at the sixteenth regular meeting of the CIFTA Consultative Committee.

81. To reiterate the importance of standardizing rules and procedures for the import, export, transportation, and transfer of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials; to ask the states parties to the Convention to convey to the Technical Secretariat of the CIFTA their comments on the document “Model Legislation for Strengthening Controls at Export Points”; and to request that the Technical Secretariat of the CIFTA, based on the comments made by the states parties, prepare a report for consideration at the Sixteenth Meeting of the CIFTA Consultative Committee.

82. To support the initiative of the CIFTA Consultative Committee to participate through the Secretariat *pro tempore* in the Biennial Meeting of States on the Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, to be convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York from June 16 to 20, 2014.

83. To thank the Government of the United States of America for its support for the project “Promoting the Marking of Firearms in Latin America and the Caribbean,” and to entrust its follow-up to the General Secretariat.

84. To convene the first meeting of the Working Group to analyze the document “OAS Firearms Standards: Marking and Record-keeping,” to last two days, during the second half of 2014.

85. To request the organs and entities of the OAS to redouble their efforts, in order to create greater synergies for the implementation of the CIFTA and with the related processes, as applicable, that exist under the aegis of the United Nations: the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms (UNPOA), the International Tracing Instrument (ITI), the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, particularly its Protocol

against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition; and to ask the Technical Secretariat of the CIFTA to attend the events connected with those international instruments and to report back to the Permanent Council through the CSH.

86. To request the CIFTA Technical Secretariat to attend subregional events currently underway in the areas covered by the CIFTA in order to strengthen ties with subregional processes, and to report back to the Permanent Council, through the CSH, on the results of those efforts.

87. To invite the States Parties to the CIFTA to promote, in the framework of international cooperation, exchange of information and experience with marking and tracing initiatives implemented in a number of member states, such as the Ballistics and Biometrics Laboratory, pursuant to the provisions of Article 2 of the Convention. Also to invite other member states to do so voluntarily if they wish.

88. To request the CIFTA Technical Secretariat to prepare by the first quarter of 2015 a record of initiatives presented by member states in accordance with the previous paragraph, with a view to identifying best practices and sharing experience.

Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions (CITAAC)

89. To reaffirm the commitment to the principles contained in the CITAAC and the commitment assumed in the Declaration of Punta del Este, adopted at the X Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas, to promote universal participation in and full implementation of said Convention.

90. To request that the General Secretariat, through the SMS, prepare consolidated annual reports for 2013 and 2014.

91. To urge States Parties to submit in a timely fashion annual reports and notifications in compliance with their obligations under Articles III and IV of the CITAAC, and to identify before July 1 of each year national points of contact to contribute to the preparation of notifications and annual reports.

92. To request the General Secretariat to contact the non-member states of the Organization so that they may contribute to the objective of the CITAAC by providing information annually to the General Secretariat on their exports of conventional weapons to States Parties to the CITAAC, in accordance with Article V thereof.

93. To set January 29, 2015, at the headquarters of the OAS General Secretariat as the date and place of the Second Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, in accordance with Article VIII of the CITAAC and AG/RES. 2809 (XLIII-O/13), and to request that the General Secretariat budget for the above conference and its two one-day preparatory meetings and that it support preparations for and follow-up on said conference.

III. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ANNUAL
REPORTS OF THE ORGANS, AGENCIES, AND ENTITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION
(ARTICLE 91.F OF THE CHARTER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES)

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)

94. To reaffirm that countering the world drug problem is a common and shared responsibility that must be addressed in a multilateral setting, that it requires an integral and balanced approach, and that it must be carried out in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and other provisions of international law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action on human rights and, in particular, with respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, for the principle of non-intervention in internal affairs of states, and for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and on the basis of the principles of equal rights and mutual respect.

95. To reaffirm that the world drug problem should be addressed in accordance with the provisions in the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol; the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971; and the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, which constitute the framework of the international drug control system.

96. To invite member states to implement or strengthen, as appropriate, a public-health and human rights perspective in their demand-reduction public policies founded on a scientific evidence-based, integral, multidisciplinary, intersectoral approach, in accordance with to their individual situations, that incorporates prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, rehabilitation, recovery and social reintegration measures.

97. To also invite member states to promote and put in practice prevention measures, including ones designed to counter social consequences associated with the world drug problem.

98. To establish an “alternatives to incarceration” working group within the framework of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD; to instruct said group to prepare a technical report on existing non-custodial alternatives for drug-related offenses in accordance with the three international drug control conventions, taking into account national legislative frameworks and the contents of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy and Plan of Action 2011–2015; and to instruct it to present [a progress report to CICAD at its fifty-sixth regular session and its final report at its fifty-seventh regular session .

99. To recommend that member states continue their efforts to adopt or improve comprehensive and balanced measures aimed at reducing the availability of the illicit supply of drugs.

100. To encourage member states to consider, as part of their national policies, comprehensive and sustainable alternative-development programs and measures—including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development, aimed at eliminating the factors that cause poverty, social exclusion, and environmental degradation, in order, *inter alia*, to avert the involvement of vulnerable populations in activities connected with illicit drug production and trafficking.

101. To invite member states to continue a broad, transparent, inclusive and scientific-based discussion within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments, and encourage discussion on approaches to address the world drug problem in the Hemisphere to enable the exchange of best practices and lessons learned to serve as input for the special session of the United Nations General Assembly to be held in 2016.

102. To reaffirm the importance of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) as the inter-American instrument to evaluate drug control policies in the Hemisphere; to recognize the methodology introduced in the Sixth Evaluation Round of this mechanism to measure the progress of member states in attaining the objectives of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy of 2010, in accordance with the actions agreed upon in the Plan of Action 2011-2015; and to express thanks for the work of the general coordinators of the Governmental Expert Group (GEG) for the MEM's Sixth Round and the experts that make up the GEG and the MEM Section of CICAD for their hard work. In this connection, to welcome the future accomplishment of the objectives of the GEG within the established timeframe and available resources.

103. To recognize the opportunity to strengthen the evaluation process to measure the impact of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its Plan of Action through, *inter alia*, the inclusion of indicators.

104. To invite member states to consider implementing within the legal framework of each member state the recommendations of the Group of Experts to Control Money Laundering, bearing in mind, *inter alia*, the following lines of action: strengthening the capacities of the authorities in charge of combating money laundering and related crimes; improvement of the efficiency of international cooperation in the area of asset recovery; development and/or strengthening of asset forfeiture systems, including asset investigation, the management of assets derived from crime and specialized units to address the issue; and advancing the study of methodological instruments to allow each country to develop its analysis of risk factors, in cooperation with specialized international organizations.

105. To take note of the discussions at the fifty-fifth regular session of CICAD on the special session of the OAS General Assembly to be held on September 19, 2014, in Guatemala, which will provide an opportunity to reflect on the world drug problem in the Americas in the context of international law, and instruct CICAD to provide inputs for said special session.

106. To take note of the "Conclusions of the Chair" (CICAD/doc.2069/13) on the fifty-fourth regular session of CICAD, held in Bogota, Colombia, from December 11 to 13, 2013, and of the "Conclusions of the Chair" (CICAD/doc.2113/14) on the fifty-fifth regular session of CICAD, held in Washington, D.C., from April 29 to May 1, 2014.

107. To endorse the Work Plan of the CICAD Executive Secretariat for 2014, in accordance with the CICAD Statutes and in fulfillment of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy and the Plan of Action 2011-2015, and entrust the Executive Secretariat to execute the corresponding actions and continue offering technical assistance to build capacities in member states, in accordance with this work plan.

108. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue offering the CICAD Executive Secretariat the necessary support and to encourage member states, permanent observers and other international donors to continue providing voluntary contributions to allow the Secretariat to continue executing its mandates.

Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)

109. To invite member states to cooperate with the General Secretariat in implementing the commitments contained in the CICTE Work Plan for 2014 adopted by the member states of CICTE at its fourteenth regular session, including cooperation in its work areas of cybersecurity, border controls, legislative assistance and combating terrorism financing, critical infrastructure protection, and international cooperation.

110. To take note of the CICTE Chair's initiative to seek ways to continue to improve the effectiveness of the meeting of National Points of Contact and the long-term financial sustainability of CICTE.

111. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue providing the CICTE Secretariat with the necessary support to ensure continuity in the implementation of its mandates, including support for convening and holding the fifteenth regular session of CICTE, scheduled to be held at the headquarters of the Organization, in Washington, D.C., from March 18 to 20, 2015, and of the thirteenth meeting of National Points of Contact to CICTE, which will take place in conjunction with that regular session, as well as the three one-day meetings to be held on December 5, 2014; January 23, 2015; and February 20, 2015, at the headquarters of the Organization.

112. To request the Chair of CICTE to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of the mandates set out in the CICTE Work Plan.

Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) ^{9/10/}

113. To foster civilian-military relationships within the IADB, urging member states to constitute joint delegations and encouraging the appointment of civilian and military experts to the Council of Delegates and the working groups of the IADB.

114. To take note that the Inter-American Defense College achieved academic accreditation as a postgraduate institution and to invite member states to select civilian and military candidates to pursue their studies there.

115. To invite member states, should they deem it appropriate, to consider continuing to provide the IADB with the necessary financial and human resources to support this institution.

116. To request the IADB and the SMS to inform the CSH about their efforts to coordinate shared topics and to identify possible areas for improvement in military and defense issues.

9. The Republic of Ecuador formalized its withdrawal from the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) on March 11, 2014. For that reason the Republic of Ecuador is not a party to the consensus ...

10. Cf., footnote 4.

117. To request that the IADB, in the framework of its Statutes:

- a. continue to foster cooperation among the various defense forums and agencies in the Hemisphere for exchanging experiences on matters within their areas of responsibility, and to report to the CSH;
- b. continue to participate, when applicable, in meetings and events on defense matters, and report to the CSH on its participation;
- c. continue to provide technical, consultative, and educational advisory services to member states upon request; and
- d. present reports, at the request of the CSH, on military and defense issues, particularly in relation to confidence- and security-building measures; the CITAAC; demining; stockpile management, security, and destruction; the institutional memory of the Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas; humanitarian assistance; and search-and-rescue activities in disasters.

118. To request the IADB to convene a meeting of civilian and military officials in the first quarter of 2015 to consider the subject of white papers on defense.

119. To instruct the IADB to prepare, with the interested member states, a proposal for technical assistance services for mine clearing and stockpile destruction activities, with a view to making that proposal available to the SMS through the AICMA and the Program of Assistance for Control of Arms and Destruction of Munitions in Central America (PACAM), for future cooperation projects, and to present the results for consideration by the Permanent Council through the CSH.

120. To instruct the IADB to prepare a technical study on the handling, securing, and destruction of munitions and explosives and to present its findings to the Permanent Council through the Committee on Hemispheric Security.

IV. FOLLOW-UP AND REPORTING

121. To instruct the SMS to submit in due course its 2014-2015 plan of activities for consultations or proper oversight by member states.

122. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

FOOTNOTES

1. objectives, and performance. The international context in which the entities concerned with defense issues in the Americas were conceived is long gone. The hemispheric relations that grew out of the Second World War and the Cold War were based on the now-defunct interventionist doctrine of national security and the principle of collective self-defense. In Latin America and the Caribbean, we have consolidated our democracies and the full operation of the principles of sovereignty, independence, and non-intervention in our internal affairs. Accordingly, our countries reject any attempt at intervention and interference by global hegemonic powers. The vision and execution of defense policy has moved beyond the militaristic, to submit to legally constituted civilian authority and to respect for the rule of law in all sectors of society, the very ones that consolidate the democratic institutional system in our states. For its part, the inter-American system has not kept pace with regional political development but has kept old structures that must, without delay, adapt to the changing times in the Hemisphere. We therefore demand that the IADB's activities be strictly confined to the mandates provided for in Article 3 of the Statutes.

2. ... and expertise on certain subject matters. The issue of data privacy is one such matter. The issue is not a Committee on Hemispheric Security issue; rather, it belongs to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) or the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL).

The United States strongly supports privacy rights and the right of freedom of expression as set forth in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and protected under the U.S. Constitution and U.S. Laws and understands this resolution to be consistent with longstanding U.S. views regarding the ICCPR, including Articles 2 and 17. Such rights are pillars of our democracy. as the OAS seeks to define its strategic vision, it also needs to consider working strategically in appropriate committees without redundancy to effectively deliver democracy, prosperity, and security to our citizens in the Americas.

3. *Idem*, footnote 2.

4. ... aimed at developing preventive actions to address the diverse threats to security arising from crime in all its manifestations. With that approach, Nicaragua has been supporting various Central American and regional initiatives.

Nevertheless, with respect to the various initiatives proposed by some countries to strengthen and consolidate the role of the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB), Nicaragua maintains that the historical context that gave rise to that entity no longer exists and that our states today find themselves in very different circumstances. In light of the above, the Government of Nicaragua does not agree that the Inter-American Defense Board should intervene in military or other matters that infringe the country's sovereignty, independence, legal system, and institutions.

5. *Idem*, footnote 2.

6. ... the United States' comprehensive review of its antipersonnel landmine policy is ongoing.

7. ... nuclear disarmament. The only practical and realistic path to the elimination of nuclear weapons lies in a step by step process that has reduced dramatically nuclear arsenals from their Cold War highs and which the United States seeks to build on through negotiations with Russia on further reductions and through support for FMCT, CTBT and Nuclear Weapon Free Zones.

8. ... they have adopted various international instruments for combating and prevention of illicit trafficking in firearms.

Furthermore, the Government of Nicaragua has incorporated in its national system of laws the United Nations Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument through the Special Law for Control and Regulation of Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Related Materials (Law 510), which has enabled it to implement a strict plan of control and registration of firearms in civilian possession and confiscation of weapons of war. The Nicaraguan nation is mindful of the humanitarian impact and of all the repercussions caused by this scourge in the Hemisphere, particularly in the Central American region, which is why it remains committed to multilateralism. However, Nicaragua is unable to accept the Arms Trade Treaty adopted by the United Nations for the following reasons:

- It does not include a ban on transfers of firearms to non-state actors, which seems to it very dangerous, given that by its non-prohibition it is led, perforce, to the assumption that it is permitted.
 - The operative part of the treaty does not contain a clear affirmation of the sovereign right of states to procure, manufacture, export, import, and keep conventional weapons and their parts and components for their legitimate defense and security needs.
 - There is no prohibition against the transfer of weapons to states that threaten the use of force or that commit crimes of aggression against other states and which have as their practice and policy the destabilization of other states as well as the threat and the use of force.
9. ... or to any commitment assumed by the states in connection with this topic.

AG/RES. 2867 (XLIV-O/14)

DRAFT AMERICAN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 1022 (XIX-O/89), AG/RES. 1479 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 1549 (XXVIII-O/98), AG/RES. 1610 (XXIX-O/99), AG/RES. 1708 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1780 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1851 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1919 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2029 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2073 (XXXV-O/05), AG/RES. 2234 (XXXVI-O/06), AG/RES. 2294 (XXXVII-O/07), AG/RES. 2368 (XXXVIII-O/08), AG/RES. 2498 (XXXIX-O/09), AG/RES. 2565 (XL-O/10), AG/RES. 2674 (XLI-O/11), AG/RES. 2724 (XLII-O/12), and AG/RES. 2793 (XLIII-O/13);

HAVING SEEN the report of the Vice Chair of the Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on activities carried out during the 2012-2013 period (GT/DADIN/doc.428/13);

RECOGNIZING the importance of contributions to the Specific Fund to Support the Elaboration of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which enable effective participation by indigenous representatives in the meetings of negotiation; and

UNDERSCORING the efforts of the Working Group to promote an early conclusion of negotiations on the Declaration and to make effective participation by indigenous peoples in the negotiations a reality, in view of the difficulties faced by the Working Group in securing contributions to the aforementioned Specific Fund, including the search for alternative sources of financing and consideration of the use of information and communication technologies,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the will and the commitment of the OAS member states to the process surrounding the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

2. To renew the mandate of the Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to continue holding its meetings of negotiations in the quest for points of consensus, so as to complete the drafting of the Declaration, on the basis of the document "Record of the Current Status of the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" (GT/DADIN/doc.334/08 rev. 7) and taking into consideration the "Compendium of Proposals of Negotiations in the Quest for Points of Consensus Held by the Working Group" (GT/DADIN/doc.255/06 add. 5), issued by the Fourteenth Meeting of Negotiations in the Quest for Points of Consensus, and other pertinent documents of the Working Group.

3. To request the Permanent Council to instruct the Working Group to:
 - a. hold three-day meetings of negotiations in the quest for points of consensus prior to the forty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly;
 - b. convene the meetings of negotiations in the quest for points of consensus on the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples three months in advance; and
 - c. take the appropriate measures to ensure the effective participation in these meetings of member states and representatives of the indigenous peoples.
4. To invite member states to conduct consultations or dialogues on the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples with the respective indigenous peoples.
5. To request the Selection Board of the Specific Fund to Support the Preparation of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to continue to work according to the principles of transparency established in resolution CP/RES. 951 (1691/09), "Specific Fund to Support the Elaboration of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples."
6. To urge the member states, permanent observers, and institutions to contribute to the Specific Fund during the period covered by this resolution.
7. To urge the Working Group to continue to seek alternatives for overcoming the current financial difficulties, without affecting the quality or representativeness of indigenous participation in the negotiation process, both of which are essential elements in upholding its legitimacy.
8. To request the General Secretariat and the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization to continue to lend their valuable support to the process of drafting the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and to thank them for their ongoing contribution to that process.
9. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution shall be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2868 (XLIV-O/14)

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SEARCH
FOR NEW APPROACHES AND EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES FOR ADDRESSING THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM
IN THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 2556 (XL-O/10) and AG/RES. 2621 (XLI-O/11) whereby it endorsed the Hemispheric Drug Strategy and the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2011-2015;

REAFFIRMING the commitments made in the Declaration of Antigua Guatemala, “For a Comprehensive Policy against the World Drug Problem in the Americas,” particularly those urging the adoption of new approaches to the world drug problem in the Americas based on knowledge and scientific evidence, advancing in a coordinated manner in the search for effective solutions to the world drug problem, with a comprehensive, strengthened, balanced, and multidisciplinary approach with full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms that incorporates public health, education, and social inclusion, together with preventive actions to address transnational organized crime, and the strengthening of democratic institutions, as well as promotion of local and national development;

TAKING NOTE of the “Report on the Drug Problem in the Americas” presented by the Secretary General of the Organization of American States in Bogota, Colombia, on May 17, 2013;

REAFFIRMING that countering the world drug problem is a common and shared responsibility that must be addressed in a multilateral setting, that it requires an integrated and balanced approach, and that it must be carried out in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and other provisions of international law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action on human rights, and, in particular, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, for the principle of non-intervention in their internal affairs, and for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as on the basis of the principles of equal rights and mutual respect;

REAFFIRMING ALSO that all persons are equal before the law and enjoy all internationally recognized human rights, without distinction as to race, sex, language, creed, or any other factor;

RECOGNIZING the importance that the judicial branch, public prosecutors’ offices, the police, the prison system, and other state entities develop and strengthen the capability to respond effectively through lawful measures to prevent and suppress crime and violence;

REAFFIRMING that policies to address the world drug problem that have to do with supply reduction and control measures must respect international human rights obligations that consider,

inter alia, that the illegal and arbitrary use of force is incompatible with the common good and rule of law in a democratic society and cannot be justified in the name of prevention and control of crime and violence;

RECOGNIZING that the world drug problem, including its political, economic, social, and environmental costs, has become an increasingly complex, dynamic, and multicausal challenge that creates negative effects on health, social relations, and citizen security and on the integrity of democratic institutions, public policies, development, and economic activities and that, under the principle of common and shared responsibility, it requires a comprehensive, balanced, multidisciplinary approach, built on a framework of full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

UNDERSCORING that the problem is not limited to the supply of and demand for drugs and to money laundering, but rather that the world drug problem can contribute to, and be exacerbated by, structural problems of a social nature;

DEEPLY MOVED by the large number of human lives lost and cut short, as well as the great suffering caused by the world drug problem;

CONVINCED that policies to reduce illicit drug demand should focus on the welfare of individuals and their environment, so that, from a multisectoral and multidisciplinary approach and using available scientific evidence and best practices, they can be based on approaches to mitigate the negative impact of drug abuse, reinforce the social fabric, and strengthen justice, human rights, health, development, social inclusion, citizen security, and collective well-being;

REITERATING the need to strengthen state institutions and public policies and strategies for social inclusion, particularly those related to education, health, and citizen security, in order to enhance prevention of drug abuse and of drug-related violence and crimes, with full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

REITERATING ALSO the importance of greater allocation of public and private resources for the implementation of prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and social reintegration programs;

REITERATING FURTHER in this regard the importance of public policies for social inclusion;

RECOGNIZING that the experiences of various governments and societies with the world drug problem and the new approaches they have developed to address it can be a source of global learning for the evolution of current drug policies;

AGREEING that among the most evident and harmful effects of drug abuse is the breaking of social ties, which requires that consideration be given to promoting policies that focus on the person, strengthen such ties, and allow people to embark on and continue with their life plans in terms of employment and vocational integration, establishment of a family, and development in society, among other things;

REAFFIRMING that drug policies must have a crosscutting human-rights perspective in line with the parties' obligations under international law and must be designed and implemented with a gender perspective, in order to promote and achieve, *inter alia*, the well-being of individuals, their social inclusion, and access to justice and health;

REAFFIRMING ALSO our commitment to encourage broad and open debate on the world drug problem so that all sectors of society participate and continue offering, as appropriate, their experience and knowledge of the different aspects of the phenomenon and thereby contribute to the strengthening of national strategies as fundamental elements for the effectiveness of public policies; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the commitment of the states to initiate a process of consultations based on the Declaration of Antigua Guatemala, to be held, *inter alia*, in the following settings: at the national level, in regional multidisciplinary groups, in the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, in the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas, held in Medellin, Colombia, in November 2013, and in specialized meetings coordinated by the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States with other regional organizations and entities,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm that drug policies must be implemented with full respect for national and international law, including due process and full respect for human rights, comprising their obligations regarding civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as for democratic institutions, so as to promote and preserve the rule of law and democratic freedoms and values in the Hemisphere.

2. To reaffirm the commitment to continue advancing in a coordinated manner in the search for effective solutions to the world drug problem with a comprehensive, balanced, and multidisciplinary approach with full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, which are directly related to the right of people to live with dignity, and so their purpose is to promote and secure the well-being of people, their social inclusion, and their access to justice, education, and health, together with preventive actions to address transnational organized crime and the strengthening of democratic institutions, as well as promotion of local and national development.

3. To reaffirm that all member states have a duty to ensure that all measures adopted to address the world drug problem are in compliance with their obligations under international law.

4. To urge states, in their drug policies to address the world drug problem, to comply fully with their obligations under applicable international law as regards the prohibition of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, in particular, the absolute prohibition of torture, including the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture.

5. To urge member states to consider policies that promote adequate social and health care for incarcerated persons, including those involved in drug abuse.

6. To invite the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to continue promoting respect for and the defense of human rights by supporting the efforts of member states that so request to comply appropriately with their international human rights commitments when developing and executing measures to address the world drug problem, and to invite it to pay attention to the possible negative effects on human rights.

7. In addition, to request that the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) continue paying attention to the effects on the rights of women that could derive from policies for tackling the world drug problem.

8. To request the executive secretariats of the IACHR, the CIM, and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), as well as other relevant areas of the Organization of American States (OAS), to establish and strengthen their ongoing collaboration, including on the topic of promotion and protection of human rights, fundamental freedoms, and women's rights, in the adoption of measures or policies to address the world drug problem, including implementation of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its Plan of Action 2011-2015.

9. To request that the Executive Secretariat of CICAD, in close coordination with the executive secretariats of the IACHR and the CIM, convene a meeting of government experts to exchange national experiences and best practices in the adoption of comprehensive drug policies under a human rights perspective, with a view to presenting a document with recommendations to be used as an input by the OAS Permanent Council, during the first half of 2015, within available resources.

10. To request the General Secretariat to take, with support from member states, the necessary steps to implement this resolution.

AG/RES. 2869 (XLIV-O/14)

FOLLOW-UP ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF COCHABAMBA ON
“FOOD SECURITY WITH SOVEREIGNTY IN THE AMERICAS”^{1/}

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

REAFFIRMING the commitments assumed in the Declaration of Cochabamba on Food Security with Sovereignty in the Americas;

BEARING IN MIND that food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life;

CONVINCED that humanity can and should live in harmony with nature;

RECOGNIZING that the constitutional legislative principles and jurisprudence of the member states reflect the view of each country on the relationship between human beings and nature;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the principles of the 2009 World Summit on Food Security of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the concept of “knowing how to eat in order to live well,” for those countries that recognize it;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALSO that in the Declaration of Mar del Plata of the Fourth Summit of the Americas in 2005, the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their “commitment to fight poverty, inequality, hunger, and social exclusion in order to raise the standard of living of our peoples and strengthen democratic governance in the Americas”;

RECOGNIZING that there are major disparities among the countries of the region with respect to nutrition, given that while some have made significant progress toward eliminating hunger and malnutrition there are also those where such problems remain manifestations of the poverty of their populations, affecting the most vulnerable segments; and

AFFIRMING that family farming and small farmers are an important basis for sustainable food production aimed at achieving food and nutrition security, and recognizing the important contribution that family farming can play in eradicating poverty in the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate its decision to promote agricultural development with the goal of strengthening food security in the context of national, regional, and international development

1. The United States reserves with regard to all references to “food sovereignty.” Food sovereignty is not a well-understood term. There is no single or widely shared definition of this concept. ...

policies, taking into account the importance of modernization and technological innovation for increasing output and productivity as well as synergies between sustainable agriculture, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, food security, nutrition, and development policies, among others.

2. To encourage member states to identify mechanisms and suitable sources of funding for developing or strengthening comprehensive national strategies for food and nutritional security, as each member state deems appropriate in their respective domestic context.

3. To request that the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) continue strengthening coordination with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), under the aegis of existing agreements and subject to the resources available, in order to support the design and implementation of multilateral efforts in the area of food and nutritional security in the Americas.

4. To reiterate its decision to strengthen the capacity of smallholder and women farmers as a strategy to enhance agricultural development and food security by promoting equitable access to land, water, financial resources, and technologies in accordance with national legislation, as well as improving smallholder farmers' participation in and access to sustainable agriculture value chains and markets.

5. To reaffirm the decision of member states to strengthen and promote public policies to stimulate sustainable farming and access to technologies, as well as measures for the management of risks associated with natural disasters and climate change adaptation.

6. To request the General Secretariat, in coordination with all organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS, to facilitate the implementation of the strategies for increasing and strengthening the participation of civil society and other social actors, including the private sector and academia, as well as of other international organizations, in OAS activities in the area of food and nutritional security.

7. To request that the General Secretariat present information on the availability of funding for the implementation of mandates related to the Declaration of Cochabamba and this resolution, given that it is necessary to promote food and nutritional security in the Americas and to create the conditions for achieving the full development of individuals and society.

8. To urge the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development to convene as soon as possible a joint special meeting on the food and nutrition situation in the Americas, with the participation and contributions of specialized agencies.^{2/}

2. The United States and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines believe that other organizations, such as the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and the

9. To reiterate “the need to further examine various concepts such as, *inter alia*, ‘food sovereignty’ and their relation with food security and the right to food, bearing in mind the need to avoid any negative impact on the enjoyment of the right to food for all people at all times.”^{3/ 4/ 5/ 6/ 7/}

10. To request that the General Secretariat to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

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3. St. Vincent and the Grenadines continues to support efforts at achieving food and nutrition security at the local, regional, hemispheric and global levels. It is, however, unable to support repeated calls ...
 4. Barbados continues to support efforts at achieving food and nutrition security at the local, regional, hemispheric and global levels. It is, however unable to support calls for the promotion of a concept,...
 5. Canada attaches great importance to the efforts by OAS member states to achieve food and nutrition security for all, which remains a significant challenge in the Hemisphere. ...
 6. Until there is an international definition of the concept of “food sovereignty,” Chile believes that the concept cannot be linked to food security or to the right to food.
 7. The Republic of Paraguay does not recognize the scope of the term “food sovereignty” while no agreed international definition exists.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... The United States is concerned that this concept could be used to justify protectionism and other restrictive import or export policies with negative consequences for food security, sustainability, and income growth that the Declaration of Cochabamba or this resolution seek to promote. Improved access to local, regional and global markets helps get food to the people that need it most and also helps to smooth price volatility. Food security depends on appropriate domestic actions that are consistent with international commitments. The United States is not a party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and joining consensus on this resolution does not recognize any change in the current state of conventional or customary international law regarding rights related to food. We interpret references in this resolution, whether directly or by reference to the Declaration of Cochabamba, to the right of food, with respect to States Parties to the aforementioned Covenant, in light of its Article 2(1), in which they undertake to take steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of economic, social, and cultural rights. We interpret this resolution's references to member States' obligations regarding the right to food as applicable to the extent they have assumed such obligations.

2. ... United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization are better qualified to address the issue of food and nutrition in the Americas. In view of the lesser capacity and expertise of the Permanent Council and CIDI on this subject, and the urgent need to prioritize budgetary resources of the Organization, the United States and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines do not support the special meeting proposed in this paragraph.

3. ... for the promotion of a concept, namely food sovereignty, which has technical, legal, and political implications without an agreed articulation of its definition and scope. This concept was already discussed within the relevant FAO framework and abandoned for various reasons, chief among them being the inability to achieve agreement on its scope and definition. As such, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is unable to join consensus on this paragraph.

4. ... namely food sovereignty, which has technical, legal, and political implications without an agreed articulation of its definition and scope.

5. ... We welcome the resolution's attention to food and nutrition security, but disassociate from the specific reference to the concept of "food sovereignty." Canada understands that there is no clear consensus on the concept of "food sovereignty" and is concerned the concept may be used to promote protectionist interests.

AG/RES. 2870 (XLIV-O/14)

VOTE OF APPRECIATION TO THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING:

That the forty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States was held in the city of Asunción, Paraguay, from June 3 to 5, 2014; and

That during this regular session of the General Assembly, the delegations expressed their profound gratitude to His Excellency Eladio Loizaga, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Paraguay, for the skill with which he steered the discussions, which led to the adoption of important declarations and resolutions on high-priority issues on the hemispheric agenda; and

UNDERSCORING the warm welcome extended by the Paraguayan people and Government,

RESOLVES:

1. To express its gratitude to His Excellency Horacio Manuel Cartes Jara, President of the Republic of Paraguay, and, in particular, to the citizens of Asunción, Paraguay, for the warm and generous hospitality that they showed to the participants at the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), at its forty-fourth regular session.

2. To recognize and commend His Excellency Eladio Loizaga, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Paraguay, on his able leadership as President of the forty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly.

3. To express its appreciation and gratitude to Ambassador Elisa Ruiz Diaz Bareiro, Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the OAS, the members of the Permanent Mission of Paraguay to the OAS, and the officials from the Paraguayan Foreign Ministry, whose efficiency, dedication, and professionalism contributed to the success of the forty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly.

AG/RES. 2871 (XLIV-O/14)

PLACE AND DATE OF THE FORTY-FIFTH REGULAR
SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2014)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT Articles 43 and 44 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly relating to the holding of regular sessions of the General Assembly and the determination of the date and place for those sessions; and

CONSIDERING:

That the General Assembly of the Organization of American States shall hold a regular session each year, preferably during the second quarter; and

That the Government of the Republic of Haiti has offered to host the forty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization, which is to be held in 2015, as a reaffirmation of its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the Organization of American States and as a demonstration of its firm decision to continue participating actively in strengthening the Organization,

RESOLVES:

1. To determine that the forty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly be held in Pétion-Ville, Republic of Haiti, from June 7 to 9, 2015.
2. To thank the Government of the Republic of Haiti for its generous offer to host the forty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly.

THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

The Organization of American States (OAS) is the world's oldest regional organization, dating back to the First International Conference of American States, held in Washington, D.C., from October 1889 to April 1890. At that meeting the establishment of the International Union of American Republics was approved. The Charter of the OAS was signed in Bogotá in 1948 and entered into force in December 1951. The Charter was subsequently amended by the Protocol of Buenos Aires, signed in 1967, which entered into force in February 1970; by the Protocol of Cartagena de Indias, signed in 1985, which entered into force in November 1988; by the Protocol of Managua, signed in 1993, which entered into force on January 29, 1996; and by the Protocol of Washington, signed in 1992, which entered into force on September 25, 1997. The OAS currently has 35 member states. In addition, the Organization has granted permanent observer status to 69 states, as well as to the European Union.

The essential purposes of the OAS are: to strengthen peace and security in the Hemisphere; to promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of nonintervention; to prevent possible causes of difficulties and to ensure peaceful settlement of disputes that may arise among the member states; to provide for common action on the part of those states in the event of aggression; to seek the solution of political, juridical, and economic problems that may arise among them; to promote, by cooperative action, their economic, social, and cultural development; and to achieve an effective limitation of conventional weapons that will make it possible to devote the largest amount of resources to the economic and social development of the member states.

The Organization of American States accomplishes its purposes by means of: the General Assembly; the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs; the Councils (the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development); the Inter-American Juridical Committee; the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; the General Secretariat; the specialized conferences; the specialized organizations; and other entities established by the General Assembly.

The General Assembly holds a regular session once a year. Under special circumstances it meets in special session. The Meeting of Consultation is convened to consider urgent matters of common interest and to serve as Organ of Consultation under the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (Rio Treaty), the main instrument for joint action in the event of aggression. The Permanent Council takes cognizance of such matters as are entrusted to it by the General Assembly or the Meeting of Consultation and implements the decisions of both organs when their implementation has not been assigned to any other body; it monitors the maintenance of friendly relations among the member states and the observance of the standards governing General Secretariat operations; and it also acts provisionally as Organ of Consultation under the Rio Treaty. The General Secretariat is the central and permanent organ of the OAS. The headquarters of both the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat are in Washington, D.C.

MEMBER STATES: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, The Bahamas (Commonwealth of), Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica (Commonwealth of), Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

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PROCEEDINGS

VOLUME I

AG/DEC. 74 - 79 (XLIV-O/14)

AG/RES. 2814 - 2871 (XLIV-O/14)

AG